Daily Report
Soviet Union

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Zagladin Discusses Nordic Nuclear-Free Zone

PM2311162288 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 17 Nov 88 p 3

["Searchlight" article by Vadim Zagladin, "Soviet Supreme Soviet Presidium adviser": "The Soviet Union Supports a Nuclear-Free Zone"]

[Text] A major question of interest to people with whom I come into contact is the Soviet view of the issue of a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic region.

We see the establishment of nuclear-free zones first and foremost as a way of limiting the spread of nuclear arms. In some cases the establishment of such zones could be accompanied by the withdrawal of nuclear arms from the relevant territories or even the destruction of stockpiles of such arms. This would undoubtedly help to strengthen mutual trust and reduce the danger of a conflict involving the use of nuclear arms. This in turn could aid the development of goodneighborly relations, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence.

It ought not be necessary to give an account of the historical background to this question. I will simply mention that ever since Finnish President Urho Kekkonen proposed a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic region in 1963 the Soviet Union has given its unreserved support to this proposal. Recently, particularly since Mikhail Gorbachev's well-known Murmansk speech, we have not only declared that we support a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic region, but we have also put forward some ideas which are primarily concerned with how a nuclear-free zone can be made effective.

What form could this support take? First, that the Soviet Union—like the other nuclear powers, of course—would guarantee to respect the zone's nuclear-free status. It will of course be up to the countries which comprise such a zone to decide what form such a guarantee would take and what methods it would employ. Second, we have not only *declared* that we are prepared to implement a number of measures—which are also very important measures—affecting parts of the Soviet Union bordering on the nuclear-free zone, but we have also already taken a number of steps in this direction.

As early as 1986 the Soviet Union dismantled all intermediate-range missile-launching installations on the Kola Peninsula and the majority of such installations in the Leningrad Military District. Several divisions of short-range missiles have also been *moved* from here to other parts of the country. I would like to emphasize in particular that this was done as early as November 1986—that is, more than a year before the signing of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on short- and intermediate-range missiles. This was a really extraordinary step, given that at that time it was not linked to equivalent steps on the part of any other nuclear power.

At the present time there are only 72 SS-12 missiles remaining in the immediate vicinity of the Nordic countries. These are kept—and I stress this—in a *nondeployed* state, in the Kaliningrad district, and they will be destroyed before the end of 1989. There are still tactical nuclear weapons at the disposal of the units based in the areas bordering the Nordic countries. This is entirely natural because practically all military divisions, both ours and those of the Americans, currently have such weapons.

We are, as is well known, in favor of the total destruction of all nuclear arms in Europe—in other words, a "third zero option." The West is still not ready for this. For our part, we are prepared to move step by step, in stages, toward this goal. In this context we could alter the deployment of our troops so that our short-range nuclear arms would be unable to reach the territory of any of the Nordic countries. And, third, we have already declared that we would be prepared to give full consideration to the question of a nuclear-free status for the Baltic. The Soviet Union is the only country which has nuclear arms here on a permanent basis. But the Baltic is entered by vessels from other NATO countries, principally the United States, with nuclear arms on board. That is why the question of a nuclear-free status for the Baltic will require certain steps to be taken—and not just by us.

Taking a practical view, we think that the road to the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic region is open. The only thing needed here is goodwill, principally on the part of the West and the NATO nations. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, everything that it has said on this issue remains valid. We are prepared to do everything to ensure not only that the northern part of our continent is nuclear-free, but also that it becomes a zone of unlimited peaceful coexistence between all the countries there.

Decreasing Need for Military Force Viewed

PM2311132988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Article by Doctor of Economic Sciences S. Blagovolin, department chief of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Strength and Impotence of Military Power. Is an Armed Clash Between East and West Realistic in Our Time?"]

[Text] For many years after the war both we and the West lived as if in expectation of a military conflict. "They" were afraid of our tanks' "rapid charge" toward the English Channel and the appearance of Soviet military bases in various parts of the world, and acted in an attempt to prevent this. We, thinking in terms of 1941, in turn did everything possible (and even impossible) to ensure that the enemy never again took us by surprise. And that meant that both sides viewed military strength as the leading element of their foreign policy, at least in relations between the two systems.

There were more than enough grounds for this view "through gunsights." The United States and its allies were the initiators of the militarization of international relations, but subsequently we ourselves made a considerable contribution to this development of events. Now it is universally recognized that considerable damage has been caused to our country by the priority given to the military principle, to the detriment of political means of opposing imperialism, and by the inability to discern its maneuvering and its counting on drawing us into an arms race fraught with the danger of wearing down our economy. This "priority of the military principle" played an enormous part in the fact that many nonsocialist countries began to view the United States as the only guarantor of their security and to some degree or other to coordinate their own efforts in the military sphere with it.

Obviously, after our country had achieved strategic nuclear-missile parity with the West, which guaranteed absolutely reliably the impossibility of using military force against the USSR, unique opportunities were opened up before us for reducing defense spending, to reduce the weight of the gigantic military press on our economy. The opportunities were opened up—and they were let slip. As a rule we continued to act on the principle of repeating everything which the United States and its allies did on the geopolitical and purely material plane. And in a number of cases we not only "repeated" but actually moved ahead—as we did, for instance, in tanks (incidentally, let's note that a modern tank costs approximately $2-3 million).

And all this took place under conditions when the USSR's economic potential was approximately five times less than the combined potential of the United States, its European allies, and Japan, and moreover, without counting the qualitative parameters, which are also by no means in our favor. There is no doubt that this is one of the main reasons for the plight of the Soviet economy and the slow growth of the people's living standards. The desire to be as strong as any coalition of states opposing us is absolutely unsound in the nuclear-missile age and runs counter to the Soviet Union's national interests.

Fortunately, in the past 3 years the situation has begun to improve. A number of important agreements have been concluded limiting the arms race. There are quite good chances that they will be followed by other steps. The new political thinking is blazing a trail slowly but confidently. And perhaps the main sign of this is the gradual awareness of politicians and indeed of the public of the colossal rich connected with the use of military strength to resolve disputes, at least between the main military-political groupings.

But this process is not proceeding smoothly. Our awareness is parting only with agonizing difficulty with beliefs that military strength and military strength alone can ensure security. Here, the greater the strength, the more assured we were. How often you encounter arguments that, in embarking on an arms limitation agreement and even more on an arms elimination agreement, we are risking our security and that the NATO countries are only waiting for a convenient occasion to attack us. In turn some people in the West continue to believe that we have in fact undertaken restructuring precisely to bring the economy to a new qualitative level and then, after a brief pause, to charge into the arms race with new forces and finally get our way. This is stated outright in particular in the recent issue of the publication prepared by the Pentagon, "Soviet Military Power."

The fact that the country's security cannot yet be ensured only by political means without appropriately trained and equipped armed forces is, of course, an indisputable truth. It will remain that way until those remote times when mankind disarms. But, on the other hand, the situation has decisively changed in the sense that armed forces' contribution to ensuring real security can be effective only if their functions are of a defensive nature.

It is for precisely this reason that the transition to the principle of reasonable sufficiency, which reflects the new military-political realities, is so important. East and West have been faced with a situation in which war as the means of resolving problems existing between them has become inconceivable as a conscious act for a whole variety of reasons.

What are these reasons? The inconceivable, suicidal nature of nuclear war is already recognized by everyone. There are no differences here. But the question arises—what about a conventional, nonnuclear war? The point is that even a war of this kind has already become unacceptable to the industrially developed countries. For instance, in West Europe, when it is saturated with chemical plants and oil refineries, atomic and other power stations, even a conventional conflict would lead to devastation entirely comparable with the consequences of nuclear war. Obviously, the same situation exists in other parts of Europe and in North America and Japan. These are reasons of a technical nature, so to speak. And they are rapidly becoming increasingly important.

General W. Altenburg, chairman of the NATO military committee, believes, for instance, that the use of new modern technologies which, incidentally, have already been created in the civilian sector, will increase the effectiveness of some types of conventional weapons 10-20 times over (!)

It is striking how much more rapidly scientific and technical progress is developing compared with our ability to assess the potential results of the use of the new types of arms created on the basis of its achievements and the degree of our responsibility to the future. After all, as during World War I, we are continuing to count in units—who has slightly more or slightly less—forgetting that the number of these "units" long ago left far behind the limit which could be fatal to all mankind. This is precisely what has happened with nuclear weapons. How difficult it is now to rectify this situation! That is what can also happen with conventional arms unless we resolutely switch to the principle of reasonable sufficiency, to a composition and structure for the Armed Forces which would rule out offensive actions.

In addition to technical reasons making war essentially impossible, there are also other, socioeconomic features. As is well known, the majority of acts of aggression have been committed and, unfortunately, supported, by a considerable proportion of the population of expansionist countries on the pretext of acquiring "lebensraum"—that is, new territories, natural resources, and so forth. Here this was presented as an essential condition for improving the life of the bulk of the population. The situation has now changed radically—it is now clear to everyone that neither boundless lebensraum nor enormous natural resources in any way guarantee a high standard of living, that it is often conditioned by completely different factors. In addition, scientific and technical progress and the existence of the socialist countries, which have proclaimed the principles of social justice, have in recent decades exerted powerful influence on the capitalist states, as a result of which profound changes have taken place leading to an improvement in the quality of life of the bulk of the population in the developed Western countries.

All this taken together has resolutely undermined the social base on which people could rely in preparing for aggressive wars. Indeed, it is now hard to imagine any government in any highly developed country with an effectively operating parliamentary system of controlling executive power which is politically capable of such actions.

Of course, in the West there are certain circles which have not abandoned the idea of resolving the historic dispute with socialism by force. And as long as this viewpoint continues to exist our Armed Forces will remain a guarantee of the country's security, particularly if you consider that the West is so far reluctant to abandon its plans for "modernizations" and "arms upgrading." But no purely mechanical buildup, working to "gross output" in the military sphere, at a level which exhausts the state's economy as a whole, will make it possible to ensure reliable defense. After all, it is not for nothing that the above-mentioned Gen W. Altenburg speaks of using "civilian" technologies as the basis for a spasmodic increase in the effectiveness of arms.

Let us note here that even for a very rich country like the United States it has proven very difficult not only to increase but even to preserve the level of military spending it has reached. This fiscal year this spending (in constant prices, taking inflation into account) will be 10 percent lower than in the "peak" year of 1985, thus declining for the 4th year in succession.

The time has obviously come for a resolute, radical restructuring of our thinking and actions in the military sphere. The time has come to change our views on questions of security, where political measures are coming to the fore and the role of military strength is declining, although it still retains important safeguard functions for which the framework of reasonable sufficiency seems the most suitable. There should be no "sacred cows" here. We must renounce stereotypes and realize what unique positive advances in the entire system of international relations can result if we are finally clearly aware of existing realities.

As for the fears in the West concerning the "military" consequences of restructuring, I thinking they will pass as our economic ties expand and glasnost deepens in all spheres, including the military sphere. Life itself will prove that we do not intend to sacrifice such a long awaited-improvement in living standards (when this takes place as a result of the growth of economic efficiency) to goals which, first, are alien to the true nature of socialism and, second, are absolutely unattainable—as much tomorrow as they were yesterday.

Gennadiy Gerasimov Holds 23 Nov News Briefing

Notes Azerbaijan Protests

LD2411145388 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said today in connection with French President Francois Mitterrand's working visit to this country, which begins tomorrow, that "in the Soviet Union we would like to hope that fresh opportunities are opening up to bring closer the positions of the USSR and France on pressing world problems and on issues of European politics and to increase mutually beneficial interaction between the two countries".

Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the ministry's Information Directorate, was speaking at a briefing.

He said competent authorities have learnt that a bandit group of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" in Pakistan has received toxins in the form of white-colored tablets, which can kill a person in 48 hours. The tablets were tried out on a Soviet prisoner-of-war and Afghan servicemen, who died as a result.

Commenting on the results of the 18th General Assembly of the Organization of American States, Gerasimov said:

"The decisions taken by the Organization of American States are seen as positive in the Soviet Union. They testify to the concern of the countries which are members of this organization about the lack of progress towards a Central American settlement and to their interest in overcoming as soon as possible the protracted slump in the peace process in the region."

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that street disorders have continue in Azerbaijan for several days and have caused public indignation. Suleyman Tatliyev, president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, spoke on local television Wednesday [23 November] night and appealed for calm.

Baku, Nakhichevan and Kirovabad today were put on a special status, with a 10 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew, Gerasimov said. Demonstrations continued on Baku's Lenin Square today. Armored personnel carriers and tanks were moved into the city.

As a result of the disturbances Lieutenant Boris Gusev and Privates Anatoliy Kosenko and Oleg Yurchenko were killed in Kirovabad Wendesday. The leadership of Azerbaijan expressed deep condolences to their bereaved near and dear ones. The session of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan in Baku was suspended because of the complicated situation in the republic. It will resume its work, Gerasimov said, when there are conditions necessary for this.

Armenian Session Suspended

LD2411164388 Moscow World Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Gennadiy Gerasimov, has said street disturbances have been continuing for several days in the Transcaucasian Republic of Azerbaijan which have given rise to angry feelings of the citizens. [passage omitted] The Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that due to the complicated situation in Azerbaijan the parliament of neighboring Armenia suspended its session. It is to be resumed when the situation allows it. [passage omitted]

'Coup Attempt' in Qandahar

LD2411163788 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—A gang of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, based in Pakistan, has been provided with toxic agents in the form of white colour tablets that can kill a human being in 48 hours. This was reported at a briefing here today by head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov. He referred to the information received from competent agencies.

The bandits tested a tablet on a Soviet prisoner of war, he said. The Soviet soldier had his upper and inferior limbs paralysed a few hours after he took the tablet, and he died in 48 hours. The tablets were also tested on two Afghan officers, who also died. Rebels from the Gulbuddin Hikmatyar group intend to use tablets to kill unsuitable persons.

With the armed oposition continuing its actions against the legitimate government in Kabul, the government troops in the past few days envigorated combat actions in a number of provinces. These involve not only regular units but also tribal regiments, said Gennadiy Gerasimov. Successful combat coperations were conducted in the Qandahar Province and also in the Provinces of Kabul, Balkh, and Jowzjan.

A military coup attempt was made in the Qandahar Province on the night of November 21-22, the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry said. The rebels tried to capture the command post of the Second Army Corps. Their actions were stopped short. 30 rebels were killed, the rest either wounded or taken prisoner.

Gennadiy Gerasimov told journalists that the seventh meeting of the Transport Subcommittee of the Standing Intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan Commission for Economic Cooperation had been held in Kabul on November 14-21. In the course of the meeting it was noted that Afghanistan's transport system, established with the assistance of the Soviet Union, enables the transportation of the whole volume of transit cargoes.

Further on 'Coup Attempt'

LD2411164788 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 24 TASS—As it became known here, a coup attempt was made in the city of Qandahar on the night from November 21 to 22. Some military leaders of the province, having betrayed state interests, tried to lead to the local headquarters of the Armed Forces a detachment of extremists, consisting of some 400 men.

However, the patriotically-minded soldiers and officers, who had found about the betrayal, laid an ambush on the way of the extremists. As a result of the bloody battle, the rebels had to retreat. Thus the heroism of the Afghan soldiers helped frustrate the plan of the irreconcilable opposition aimed at capturing the major provincial centre in southern Afghanistan.

Views Palestinian State Recognition

LD2411171788 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—In reply to the question by a foreign journalist, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, gave explanations on the recognition by the Soviet Union of a Palestinian (?state) proclaimed by the Palestine National Council.

The question of recognition of a state, he said, usually arises when a new state emerges as an independent subject of international law as a result of the national liberation movement or social revolution, of the secession of a part of the territory of the state and also in the (?value) the merger of states.

"Our practice," the Soviet spokesman said, "knows no precedents when a state would be recognised while its territory was under foreign occupation and which had no government at the moment of recognition. However, this cannot be an obstacle to recognising the state in principle although it leaves its mark on the recognition and its consequences."

The fact that the territory of the proclaimed Palestinian state is under foreign occupation lends to the act of recognition political rather than international legal character, Gennadiy Gerasimov stressed. In the obtaining conditions, such an act means support for the steps taken by the Palestine National Council in the cause of the exercise of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the creation of an independent state in accordance with the known decision of the United Nations.

Praises Namibian Settlement

LD2311144788 Moscow TASS in English 1429 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—The Soviet Union welcomes the reaching of accord on a settlement of the conflict in South West Africa and wishes the talks to be successfully brought to a positive logical conclusion, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated at a briefing here today.

He made the statement in view of reports reaching here that the South African Government, following Angola and Cuba, had endorsed the accord reached in Geneva on November 15 on a settlement of the conflict in South West Africa, the settlement which should lead to the granting of independence to Namibia, to the ensurance of Angola's security, and to a gradual withdrawal of Cuban troops from that country.

The Soviet Union actively contributed to bringing the positions of the parties closer together, and maintained close contacts with various states. "Our Angolan and Cuban friends," Gerasimov pointed out, "took a constructive realistic stand, displayed political realism and readiness to find solutions on the basis of a balance of interests of all the parties concerned and to reach an accord opening the way for a political settlement in South West Africa. We were gratified to learn that this policy met with a positive response on the part of the Government of the Republic of South Africa."

Due credit should be given to the mediatory role of the United States which made a tangible contribution to the business of achieving an accord, the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry went on to say. If events continue to develop in the same favourable direction, that would give ground to hope for normalisation and resolution of the conflict situation in Africa's south as a whole.

"Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States in solving the problem is a good example of how fruitful joint efforts of the two great powers can be in the cause of bringing about a settlement of other regional problems," he emphasized.

Upcoming Mitterrand Visit

LD2311145688 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—President Francois Mitterrand of France arrives on a working visit to the Soviet Union on Friday [25 November]. The visit is important already by the fact that it signifies a resumption, following a pause of over three years, of Soviet-French contacts at the highest level, Nikolay Afanasyevskiy, chief of the First European Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said at a briefing here today.

The visit paid to Paris last month by the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Afanasyevskiy went on to say, "demonstrated a reciprocal desire to reactivate bilateral relations and to deepen the political dialogue."

A comparative analysis of the stands of the two countries on international problems also gives grounds for optimism, Afanasyevskiy said. As concerns Europe, both Moscow and Paris now give priority to the problem of conventional arms reductions. Both sides now favour an early start of negotiations and achievement of practical agreement.

Lately, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said, there has been an evolution in France's approach to the problem of banning and eliminating chemical weapons. "It seems to us that a broad area for interaction open up here."

"Four positions," he continued, "are also largely similar as regards ideas on how to build the future of Europe. There are, of course, some nuances, but the main thing is a desire to pass from confrontation to solidarity, from suspicion to trust and to giving a new dimension to cooperation in the economic, scientific, technological and other areas."

Soviet and French approaches are also close on ways to settle regional conflicts, including those in the Middle East and in Kampuchea.

The situation is more complex, Afanasyevskiy noted, with the specifics of bilateral relations, in the first place the economic relations whose growth is slow and does not correspond either to the potentials or wishes of the two sides. "The existing practice—the mechanism of pure trade—no longer meets the exigencies of today. It seems to us, we must be bolder in passing over to new forms of cooperation: the setting up of joint ventures, establishment of direct links between Soviet and French firms and industrial cooperation."

The Soviet diplomat noted an "extraordinary topicality" of both sides' expressed readiness for the new quality of cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian fields.

Referring to the programme of the French president's stay in the Soviet Union, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that it includes meetings and conversations with Mikhail Gorbachev and extended talks. Francois Mitterrand will also attend the blast-off of the joint Soviet-French space crew which will set out on a prolonged space flight on Saturday.

'International Situation' Program on Afghanistan

LD1211114988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 88

["International Situation—Questions and Answers" program, presented by Konstantin Patsyuk, All-Union Radio commentator; with Colonel Viktor Filatov, chief editor of VOENNO-ISTORICHESKIY ZHURNAL; commentator Vladimir Pasko; commentator Aleksandr Malikov; and Andrey Ptashnikov, Stanislav Blazhenkov, and Nikolay Agayants, not further identified]

[Excerpts] In today's program Filatov talks about his recent visits to Cuba and Nicaragua, concluding that the people cannot be intimidated by military threats. He recalls a visit to Guantanam, site of the only U.S. base in a socialist country; Pasko explains the INF Treaty and how the Soviet Union and the United States destroy their weapons; Patsyuk explains the composition of the Commonwealth countries and their policies.

[Patsyuk] And now let's turn to the subject of Afghanistan. War and labor veteran Comrade Boris Aleksandrovich Zhilkin, who lives in the village of Sredniy Raskhovets in Kursk Oblast, says, among other things, in his letter: Reading the newspapers and listening to the radio, I understand that we want Afghanistan to be a neutral, independent, and nonaligned state. But 10 years ago, he points out, before the entry of our troops, Afghanistan had this status. In this connection Comrade Zhilkin asks: Was it necessary therefore to bring our troops into Afghanistan? I will ask my colleague, commentator Aleksandr Malikov, to answer this and other questions on the subject of Afghanistan.

[Malikov] The problems of the unification of the Afghan people, who have close links through tradition, culture, and religion, have always been acute in this multitribal country. This was so prior to the entry of our troops. In fact, the Afghan Government at the time requested this, having many times endeavored to forestall those forces who had been nurturing plans to plunder the country, a country—as you correctly pointed out—which had the status of a nonaligned and neutral state. That's how things were, esteemed Comrade Zhilkin.

Unfortunately, as Mohammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan says, there are still forces in the country who would like to make a second Lebanon out of Afghanistan, forces operating from separatist and narrow, egoistic positions.

Let's have a look at what kind of future the Afghan fundamentalists—who incidentally win most of their support from Washington and Islamabad—are preparing for their country. Let's examine, for example, one part of the program of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan. We, the Muslim fanatics state therein, are resolute supporters of peace. However, from our point of view, they say, the absence of war does not mean peace and security. In order to achieve true security, they believe the Islamic order should prevail everywhere, and in all countries. Such extremism in domestic policy is comparable to the extremism in its foreign policy. Any sensible person realizes that the establishment of such an order can only be conceived through force.

A few more words about the concept of an Islamic state. The experience of those countries where the authorities are on a path of radical Islamization shows that the idea of Islamic justice remains a utopia, and an Islamic state in fact means authoritarian rule by a thin, priviliged stratum, supported as a rule by the army and a ramified apparatus of violence. It is precisely such a future, with clear support from Pakistan, that the Islamic fundamentalists are preparing for Afghanistan. I would add—and this is evident, for example, in Pakistan, too—that the processes of the domestic Islamization of society in no way signify freedom from foreign influence. Pakistan, which has in essence, formally remained a nonaligned state, has for many years been pursuing a policy favorable to the United States in the region, not to mention the fact that the very offering of the country's territory for U.S. bases in no way accords with the official status of nonalignment. One should also bear in mind the fact that U.S. political circles, by patronizing the fundamentalists over many years, link their own mercenary designs with the fundamentalists coming to power in Kabul.

One can only agree with the opinion of Mohammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of Afghanistan, that the activities of the opposition forces, who are refusing to enter into a compromise with the government, constitute a serious threat to Afghanistan's integrity in the future. Comrade Zhilkin may well ask: What, then, could guarantee Afghanistan's nonaligned status, especially now when our troops are withdrawing? Undoubtedly, the chief say in solving this question belongs in the long run with the Afghans themselves, whether it is solved, for example, at a loya jirgah—a Grand Assembly session of all influential Afghans—or at any other forum with the participation of representatives of all classes of Afghan society. Naturally, an important role in all this belongs to the world community. It was not by chance that Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, recently made a proposal to provide international guarantees that Afghanistan would remain a neutral, nonaligned state. Such guarantees, in his view, could be worked out by an international conference on Afghanistan under the aegis of the United Nations.

Without a doubt, all these questions can find a logical solution only if the civil war is ended. To end this civil war is the main objective of all the latest peace initiatives put forward by the Afghan leadership. [passage omitted]

[Patsyuk] Pensioner Yegorov from Irkutsk asks about our foreign debt. Esteemed Comrade Yegorov, as far as the Soviet Union's foreign debt is concerned, I do not have the overall sum from our own sources. According to Western estimates, which have been published in our press, the USSR's foreign debt at the beginning of 1987 amounted to more than $20 billion. I would like to point out that in terms of foreign debt per capita, we are some way behind all the European socialist countries. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

Bush Appoints Scowcroft as Security Adviser

LD2511025488 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Polyakovsky:

President-elect George Bush named Brent Scowcroft this Wednesday to be his national security adviser.

Scowcroft has had experience in this capacity as President Gerald Ford's security adviser. As to his career under President Reagan, he was head of the strategic forces commission responsible for the drawing up of recommendations on methods of deploying intercontinental MX missiles, member of the inquiry commission that investigated National Security Council operations during the "Iran-Contra" scandal.

"Widely experienced in defense and foreign policy issues, Scowcroft has frequently expressed strongly held views on arms control and the Strategic Defense Initiative that are at odds with the Reagan administration policies," THE WASHINGTON POST noted in the report on the appointment of this 63-year-old general to one of the key posts in the future administration. The CBS believes that by picking Brent Scowcroft as his future national security adviser, Bush has sided with pragmatists.

"Brent is a trusted friend, a man for whom I have extraordinarily high regard", George Bush said at a press conference this Wednesday. "He understands the White House, he understands the military, the State Department, the way the hill works, and the intelligence community as well. He is not a policy-maker. The secretary of state will be the chief spokesman, obviously, on foreign policy matters. He will be an honest broker. He will convey to me exactly the feelings of the Cabinet members that are involved in international affairs".

Bush was asked at the press conference whether he shared Scowcroft's "cautious" approach to arms control negotiations with the USSR and to the Soviet Union in general. "We are in agreement that caution is called for", was the reply of George Bush, who is to be sworn in as the 41st U.S. president on January 20th. "And that doesn't mean", he continued, "there won't be forward progress because I do think that we have a great opportunity. But what I want to do, and whether its on arms control or any other bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, is to take enough time to set our course. I share the caution that he has sometimes signaled. But that should not be taken as a negative sign that I don't want greater progress with the Soviet Union. And I will have an opportunity early in December to make that very clear to Mr. Gorbachev. But what I want to be able to make clear to him is, here's our detailed arms control formulation. I want to have a new look and that doesn't mean we are not going to build on the record of this administration".

Bush was asked: "General Scowcroft has expressed some reservations about SDI. Does this appointment signal any kind of a pull-back by you on President Reagan's plan?" The president-elect's answer was "no".

Pentagon Unveils Radar-Evading 'Stealth' Bomber

PM2511093988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Gan dispatch: "Provocative Display"]

[Text] Washington, 23 Nov—The latest B-2 strategic bomber was presented today to selected guests and a small group of journalists invited by the Pentagon on the airstrip of the Northrop Corporation's plant in Palmdale (California).

It is claimed that the top secret "Stealth" technology with which the aircraft is fitted makes it virtually invisible to radar.

When the B-2 rolled out of the hangar, the aircraft's configuration was striking. Constructed in the form of a "flying wing," the bomber has the appearance of being flattened out, as it were, each of its sides is rounded, and it lacks a tail unit, external engines, and antennae.

The B-2 is not only unusual in terms of its shape. Its cost is also unique. According to estimates, each machine will cost the taxpayer $450-500 million—and there are plans to create a fleet of 132 B-2's.

The appearance of the B-2 arouses serious disquiet among those Americans who can clearly picture the consequences of a "revolutionary" weapon in the socioeconomic and foreign policy context. Although unintentionally, reports from the Federation of American Scientists and the Union of Concerned Scientists came to the same conclusion—the B-2 program is unnecessary, provocative, and wasteful, especially in light of the Soviet Union's clear readiness to continue talks with the United States on strategic arms reductions. While in no doubt as to the USSR's capability to neutralize the "Stealth bomber," the Union of Concerned Scientists reasonably noted that the B-2 will only complicate, if not undermine, arms control efforts since it will by no means help create mutual trust.

Pentagon 'Plan' Targets Latin Leftist Groups

PM2311141588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Cherepanov dispatch: "Latin America: Secret Pentagon Plan"]

[Text] Mexico City—The Pentagon has finished drawing up a secret plan for waging "low-intensity wars" in Latin America over the next 10 years.

The Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR has reported this with a reference to Berta Zapata [name as transliterated], a member of the scientific center for the study of economic and social problems of the "Third World." She declared, in particular, that the document will be published in full within the next few days by the Mexican Committee for Solidarity With Panama.

According to the scientist's data, the secret Pentagon plan, which has to be approved by the next U.S. president, provides for secret operations against all left-wing parties, groups, and organizations in Latin America which espouse anti-U.S. positions.

This same document says that the United States will continue the intensive application of economic sanctions, up to and including the establishment of a blockade, against regimes on the Latin American continent which are out of favor with the U.S. Administration.

Joint U.S.-USSR Computer Journal Published

LD2311070288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Summary] A new journal, produced jointly by the United States and the USSR, has appeared. It is called IN THE WORLD OF PERSONAL COMPUTERS [V Mire Personalnykh Kompyuterov] and publishes articles by both Soviet and American specialists.

The first issue contains a foreword by Academician Velikhov.

The journal is published by the Radio and Communications Publishing House [Izdatelstvo Radio i Svyaz] in the USSR and by the International Data Group in the United States. It prints articles such as the following: "Restructuring in Information Science," "The World of Personal Computers," "The Computer in Musical Creativity," "Everything About Computers for Everyone," and "How the Personal Computer Altered My Life." There are also technical articles for specialists.

Canadian Aide on Devlopment of Cooperative Ties

PM2311167488 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with A.P. McLean, chief of the Canadian Foreign Ministry's USSR and East European Countries Administration, by correspondent M. Maksimov: "We Are Neighbors Across the Arctic"; place, date not given; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] A program of exchanges and cooperation in the spheres of science, education, and culture between the Soviet Union and Canada for 1989-1990 has been signed at the USSR Foreign Ministry.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent asked A.P. McLean, chief of the Canadian Foreign Ministry's USSR and East European Countries Administration and head of the Canadian delegation, to comment on this event.

[McLean] People in Canada attach great significance to the signing of the program. It is no coincidence that such a sizable delegation—16 people—has come to Moscow.

The agreements adopted provide for the development of Soviet-Canadian cooperation in the spheres of science, culture, art, television, radio broadcasting, health care, sport, and also education. True, it is a question so far only of 20 Soviet students coming to our country. But these are the first steps—the figure will undoubtedly increase in the future. Contacts will be expanded between moviemakers and theater collectives. And it is, of course, necessary to increase tourist exchanges.

I would like to single out another aspect. This is the first time in the history of our scientific ties that questions of cooperation in opening up the Arctic and in resolving the problems that the North poses for mankind have been examined so carefully.

[Maksimov] Why were cultural, scientific, and economic ties between our countries not at the level we would have liked in previous years?

[McLean] I believe there are several reasons. The geographic factor plays a considerable role. Russia is historically linked with Europe, and thanks to this contacts with the FRG, Italy, and France have developed more dynamically than with us. At the same time Canada has also been accustomed to orienting itself toward its southern neighbor—the United States.

And yet we are also neighbors of yours. Across the Arctic, across the ocean. We have so much in common—vast territories, climatic conditions. Each other's experience, knowledge, and skills can stand us in good stead. So Soviet-Canadian cooperation has tremendous potential. Unfortunately, it has not yet been realized.

In 1971, just as today, we signed a document providing for extensive ties. But a great deal just remained on paper. I believe the second attempt will prove more successful.

China

Shevardnadze on 'New Stage' in PRC Relations

PM2411165188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA Editorial Bureau interview with Soviet Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze: "There Is No Going Back to the Standards of the Past. E.A. Shevardnadze, Member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Foreign Minister, Answers Questions From IZVESTIYA Editorial Bureau"—date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Soviet people are following with great interest and undoubted approval the process of the gradual improvement of our relations with China. We in the editorial bureau know this from readers' letters. The visit to Moscow by PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is the first in many years. Prior to this you had met with him at the UN General Assembly session in New York in September. What will be on the agenda now?

Answer: I can say right away that nowadays the agenda is directly agreed upon at the start of talks: The sides familiarize each other with their wishes, outlining the problems to be covered in the talks ahead. That is the generally accepted practice and, obviously, we will stick to it this time too.

We do have things to discuss—both on specifics and conceptually.

Personally I see the aim of the talks as being to promote the organization of a full-scale Soviet-Chinese political dialogue historically geared toward friendship, cooperation, and mutual understanding between the two great socialist countries. And not only in the context of bilateral relations but in terms of other, international parameters: After all, the USSR and the PRC are major world powers and permanent members of the UN Security Council, and in this respect are equally responsible for the resolution of many important international problems.

Take the problem of confidence-building measures in the military sphere, for instance: This problem exists in our bilateral relations and in an international context. And, of course, we intend to discuss the question of reducing military confrontation along our common border, as well as confidence-building measures and military detente in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the broader plane, covering not just the political aspects of our ties, the first official visit to our country by a PRC foreign minister in almost 4 decades symbolizes, in my view, a new stage in Soviet-Chinese relations.

You mentioned the feelings with which Soviet people are following the process of gradual improvement in our relations with China. The roots here lie in the fact that more than one generation of our fellow citizens literally identifies with the idea of Soviet-Chinese spiritual kinship and the closeness of the two peoples in their goals and ideals of life. And that is why the inconstancy [prevratnost] of our relations and their exacerbation in the sixties was so painful for our society and, I am convinced, for Chinese society. That is why there has been such a great desire for these relations to get back to normal and develop for the good of our peoples.

I would say that, despite all the changes in the political climate, friendship, goodneighborliness, and cooperation have remained invariable dimensions in the mutual spiritual attraction between the Soviet and the Chinese peoples. Hence also the broad public support in both countries for the steps toward a normalization of our relations.

The agreement on the exchange of official visits by foreign ministers, which has the peoples' mandate, is a reflection of both sides' desire to move to a higher level of political contacts.

We attach great importance to the upcoming talks with Comrade Qian Qichen and hope that they will attain the set aim.

Question: It appears that a Soviet-Chinese summit could also be in the offing. At the beginning of November Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said that M.S. Gorbachev and Deng Xiaoping could meet in the first half of the coming year. Will this question be discussed during your Chinese colleague's visit to Moscow?

Answer: Without any doubt. As is known, speaking in Krasnoyarsk, M.S. Gorbachev also expressed himself in favor of holding a Soviet-Chinese summit. So there is a mutual desire to work toward this end.

The question of a summit meeting will occupy a central place in the talks with the Chinese minister in Moscow, where he will be received by Mikhail Sergeyevich, and during the USSR foreign minister's return visit to Beijing.

Question: Meetings between Soviet and Chinese representatives on questions of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, political consultations at deputy foreign minister level, and talks on border questions have become regular occurrences. Summary reports are published in our press only on the first two types of contacts, yet our readers are also interested in details about the discussion of border questions. Could you enlighten us on this question?

Answer: Soviet-Chinese talks on border questions resumed in February 1987 and are being held alternately in Moscow and Beijing.

It must be noted that the discussion takes place in a businesslike atmosphere and is marked by a mutual desire to achieve progress in the solution of border questions. The actual work is based on Sino-Russian treaty documents on border demarcation and on the principles of current international law.

In the course of three rounds of talks the delegations have examined questions pertaining to the line followed by the Sino-Soviet border in its eastern sector, which covers some 4,200 km. A common understanding has been reached as regards most of its sections.

At the latest round of talks, held in Moscow in October of this year, the government delegations embarked on the examination of questions of the line followed by the border in its western sector, which covers more than 3,000 km. A working group which will meet in Moscow in the beginning of the coming year is being set up for this purpose.

However, I would not like to convey the impression that everything is going smoothly in this sphere. The question of the border remains difficult, complex. But the very fact that the sides are cooperating constructively in resolving it allows us to hope that a mutually acceptable result will be achieved.

It goes without saying that this will take time.

Question: Economic ties between the USSR and the PRC have been developing rapidly recently and their forms and methods are becoming increasingly diverse. For example, cross-border trade is increasing. But now our press is discussing the idea of creating special "free enterprises zones" in the Far East including Chinese involvement. Are official talks going to be held on this topic?

Answer: Indeed, such ideas are now being discussed on a very wide scale both in our country and abroad. Some specific proposals are being put forward. However, as world practice shows, the creation of such zones is a far from simple matter and requires thorough preliminary preparation and consideration of many factors, both external and internal. There are no earlier precedents of this kind in our country. But zones of this type have been operating in China for several years now and definite experience has been accumulated. I believe that it deserves the closest attention and study. It is not impossible that in time talks may be held on cooperation in this sphere.

Question: There was a time when Soviet-Chinese cooperation developed very intensively and brought both peoples good results. There have also been complex and difficult times.

In your opinion, what character may Soviet-Chinese relations acquire in the future?

Answer: They will be as we want them to be and are capable of making them. Any other forecast which seeks to give concrete expression to the level and quality of the content of our ties right now would be wrong.

One thing is clear: Neither we nor the Chinese side are looking back to the standards of the past—say, the fifties. Times are different now, as are the realities.

We are looking to the future, guided by the conceptual approach to Soviet-Chinese relations which was set out in the documents of the 27th CPSU Congress and in M.S. Gorbachev's program speeches in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk.

We will form our relations with our great neighbor on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, noninterference in internal affairs, and consideration of each other's legitimate interests.

At one time a lot was said about various "triangles," "quadrangles," and "pentagons" of great powers and it was automatically assumed that the improvement of relations between two sides would inevitably lead to a political loss for a third side. The time of such "political geometry" has gone for good. We proceed on the basis that the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations must not harm the USSR's or PRC's ties with third countries.

The improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations is an integral and an exceptionally important part of the process of general improvement in the international climate, the strengthening of security, and the expansion and deepening of cooperation among all states in the solution of mankind's global problems.

And, of course, this process is in the interests of our peoples, who are resolving the historic tasks of renewal in their countries.

As for past mistakes, as a Chinese professor has said, the only real mistake is one that cannot be corrected.

I believe that there is nothing in our relations that cannot be rectified.

PRC Foreign Minister To Visit 1-3 Dec

LD2411121288 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—According to an understanding that has been reached, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of the People's Republic of China will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union on December 1-3 at the invitation of Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR.

PRC Party Paper on Gorbachev Visit to India

LD2411174988 Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Beijing November 24 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to India drew attention of the international community which believes that this trip outlined new directions in Soviet foreign policy, the newspaper RENMIN RIBAO writes today.

The current visit clearly showed the place which Asia will occupy in Soviet foreign policy in the future, the organ of the Central Committee for the Communist Party of China continued. It is noteworthy that relations between the Soviet Union and China occupied one of the important places in the Delhi speech. The visit by the Soviet leader to India and his speech are evidence that in the conditions of the current thawing in Soviet-U.S. relations the USSR will step up its foreign policy acivity in the Asia-Pacific region, seek and develop relations with the countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Development of Siberia is one of the areas of economic restructuring in the Soviet Union, which presupposes attracting capital from Asian and Pacific countries and technical cooperation with them. Improvement of the relations between the USSR and China will, undoubtedly, exert great influence on world affairs. In December Chinese and Soviet foreign ministers will hold their first official meeting in many years and, progress is achieved at it, a Chinese-Soviet summit meeting will follow next year. The development of relations with Asian countries, with the key significance of improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations, can become in future one of the central directions of Soviet foreign policy, RENMIN RIBAO writes.

Kuomintang Committee Congress Held in Beijing

LD2111133388 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Beijing November 21 TASS—The 7th congress of the Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee has been held here. It is one of the eight democratic parties, represented in the United People's-Democratic Front of China.

The congress discussed invigorating the party's role in the political life of the country, the process of building a specifically Chinese socialism. Special attention was paid to the problem of a united China. The delegates expressed their opposition to the concepts of "two Chinas", "one China and one Taiwan", "Taiwan independence" and supported the proposal, moved by the Communist party of China, that negotiations be held with the Taiwan leadership to bring about peaceful unification of the country.

Chinese Commodity Trade Fair Opens in Khabarovsk

OW1811200188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] A Chinese commodity trade fair opened in Khabarovsk today to promote direct trade between the Soviet Far East and Chinese Heilongjiang Provinces. Light industrial products, radio and electronics equipment, and medical equipment are on display at the trade fair.

Heilongjiang Border Trade With USSR Increasing

OW1811195088 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] Nine cities and counties along Heilongjiang Province's several-thousand mile long border have started to trade with the Soviet Union. Since the PRC Government approved the expansion of Heilongjiang's border trade with the Soviet Union, the province has signed trade agreements worth 100 million Swiss francs. Actual trade volume during the first 9 months of this year has already totaled 100 million Swiss francs, an increase of 300 percent over the same period last year.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Shevardnadze Article on Cooperation With SRV

BK1811155988 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 3 Nov 88 pp 1, 4

[Article by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the USSR-SRV Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation]

[Text] The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, the 10th anniverary of which is being celebrated by our two peoples today, has a special meaning in the relations between the two countries.

The signing of the document has substantiated the international legality of the traditional friendship between the two peoples, a friendship that has been tested by time and is based on the unshakable unity between the communist parties of the Soviet Union and Vietnam and on their loyalty to the teachings of the great Lenin and President Ho Chi Minh. Soviet-Vietnamese relations have always been guided by common historical goals, a deep respect for each other's experiences and achievements, full and unconditional equality, and multiform, complimentary cooperation.

All these have been reflected in the treaty which serves as a core for relations between our two countries.

History, however, stands still. The world and our two countries are longer the same as they were 10 years ago. Looking back over the past 10 years, from today's vantage point, we should realize that many unexpected things have arisen in implementing various clauses of the treaty. Indications of formalism and showiness and those appraisals that do not bear the character of objective self-criticism over our actual state of affairs have undoutedly hampered our common cause.

Over the years, many problems have accumulated while the new, contemporary political thinking has created a new driving force for the positive changes now taking place in cooperation among socialist countries, including the Soviet Union and Vietnam, in their combined efforts to do away with everything which is obsolete and which obstructs our advance.

The closeness of various objectives and tasks of the communist parties of the Soviet Union and Vietnam in carrying out restructuring in the USSR and the renovation of socialism in Vietnam has permitted the qualitative improvement of the entire system of our bilateral relations, making these relations more dynamic and effective. One cannot but note with great pleasure the fact that the Soviet people's efforts to implement the resolutions of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union's 27th congress and 19th all-union conference have received full support from Vietnam. In the Soviet Union, everyone is monitoring with sincere and profound concern the exercise in Vietnam of the policy of renovation put forth by the Sixth CPV Congress.

The principles of new political thinking—which serve as a foundation for strategic changes in our two countries—now urgently require us to restructure the existing system of cooperation. It is high time to carry out this restructuring, especially in the areas of general economic, scientific, and technical activities.

These are an objective mandate of the era that we cannot fail to take into account if we do not want to see this cooperation lose its dynamism and its potentially growing efficiency.

The meetings between Comrades M.S. Gorbachev and Nguyen Van Linh in May 1987 and July this year affirmed this view of our joint actions. The high-level leaders of the two fraternal parties demonstrated great concern for the considerable reserve capabilities along that direction and put forward joint proposals, opening tremendous possibilities for the development of economic and trade cooperation under various forms, such as cooperativization of production, joint enterprise, and direct relations among cadres, federations, and production establishments. The participation of the Soviet Union under the framework of CEMA in drafting the special program for coordination in the economic development of Vietnam, Mongolia, and Cuba also proceeded from that intense concern for the stabilization of the economy and strengthening of the national economic potential of fraternal Vietnam.

While analyzing the present situation and determining the future for our bilaterial relations, we cannot overlook an important fact consisting of the economic, political, cultural, and general aspects of human beings, which is a new factor in our diversified relations. They are the thousands of Soviet experts who are now working in Vietnam and the tens of thousands of Vietnamese who are working at various factories and enterprises or studying at various colleges and vocational middle schools in our country. It is possible to figure out the volume of products turned out for each country by these international laborers, but it is difficult to evaluate all the potentials and noble ethics of such an extensive unofficial exchange between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam at present, in the future interrelationship of our two countries, as well as in the cause of education of the people under the spirit of proletarian internationalism. This fact shows that the close links between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Vietnam are becoming an undertaking of thousands and thousands of people.

The new political thinking reflects most clearly the direct dependence of the foreign policy of the state and its role—as a tool for a secure world and for the normal development of relations among nations—on the situation and trend of internal affairs in a series of revolutionary changes that are taking place in our two countries. Certainly, the tasks that are in process in the Soviet Union and Vietnam have shown new capabilities with which to consolidate an important integral part in Soviet-Vietnamese relations, that is, the coordination between the two countries in the international arena.

As an international legal document which is not aimed at opposing a third country, the treaty has pointed out the determination of the Soviet Union and Vietnam to coordinate efforts in promoting peace in Asia and the world and helping to develop the fine relations and cooperation for mutual benefit among the states with different social systems as well as for the solidarity of all forces that are struggling for the sake of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Proceeding from the viewpoint that the component parts of a foreign strategy must consist of realism, the balance of interests, giving priority consideration to general values of mankind, the idea of security and equality for all people, and dialogue on an equal basis for all, and preferring international law and especially political means to other measures when it comes to solving international issues, the Soviet Union is convinced that the strength of the policy of peaceful construction will prevail over the policy of those forces which are—from a historic point of view—no longer fit.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam consider as standards the combination of their interests and initiatives with the lines of other socialist countries, which have been generally coordinated in the international arena. Such coordination is reflected in the struggle to prevent a nuclear war and ensure freedom of choice—the main point of the new political thinking which shifts confrontation to dialogue in international affairs.

All the meetings of our parties' leaders have unfolded with detailed discussions of and deep concern for the international situation and with "regaining time" for coordinating more effectively the various mutual aid operations in the daily- and hourly-changing situation on our planet.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam as well as other socialist countries firmly believe that all states must unify and intensify efforts to consolidate peace and security, achieve disarmament, and create an atmosphere conducive for broadening dialogue and democratizing international activities. This is mainly why in Moscow, and Hanoi as well, the reasonable proposals for purifying the political atmosphere on earth as a whole or in given separate areas in order to eliminate hotbeds of conflict have received total support.

As countries pursuing the guidelines for turning the Asia-Pacific region into a zone of peace, stability, goodneighborliness, and cooperation on the basis of efforts by all countries in the Asia-Pacific area, the Soviet Union and Vietnam have always created conditions for accelerating the process of changing the thinking of leaders and the public opinion of societies in various countries of the Asia-Pacific region concerning the viewpoints of ensuring security for their own countries. The New Delhi statement by the Soviet Union and India, the efforts of Indonesia to settle the conflicts in Southeast Asia, the ideas of limiting naval operations in this region, the opposition to military bases in the Philippines, New Zealand's non-nuclear policy, and Australia's initiatives for disarmament are all new, promising buds of the new thinking in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our two countries actively help accelerate the implementation of initiatives of the Mongolian People's Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The implementation of these initiatives will create conditions for establishing an atmosphere of trust and goodneighborliness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Yet, it would be incorrect if we exaggerated the results achieved and failed to appraise the current situation with a critical attitude. The current situation in this area is still complicated and unstable, and tension has not been eased positively. There is no clear progress in the organization of dialogue concerning the issues to ease military tension in the region.

The steps taken to stabilize the situation around Afghanistan have considerably influenced the political situation in the Asia-Pacific region. We consider the signing of the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan as the beginning of many political prospects for the world which demonstrates that the qualitative restructuring of political thinking is good news for all other areas. We cannot allow interruption of the link of political solution in Geneva. This demand becomes all the more rigorous because, under the influence of outside forces, first of all Pakistan, the balance of commitments by all sides—the basis of all accords achieved in Geneva—is being changed, and the general implementation of measures specified in the agreement is in question.

We are grateful to the Vietnamese friends for having fully supported the Soviet constructive initiatives in CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's statement at Krasnoyarsk on 16 September 1988. We consider the Vietnamese view that all sides involved should have a positive attitude toward the initiatives in Krasnoyarsk—because such an attitude will create conditions for consolidating peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region—is a coordination move to bring the new concepts of the Soviet Union to the same level as practical action.

It is very easy to understand that in the trend of a principled attitude toward the Asia-Pacific issues, the Soviet Union has supported and is supporting the initiatives of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to pursue the noble tasks of eliminating confrontation and tension in Southeast Asia, establishing relations of peace and cooperation in the region, and turning Southeast Asia into a nuclear-free zone. The seven-point proposal put forth by the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the informal meeting in Indonesia in July 1988 is an important factor in this trend.

The principled attitude of our two countries toward the settlement of conflict in Cambodia concretely manifests the coordination of action between the Soviet Union and Vietnam to resolve problems in Southeast Asia. The Soviet Union and Vietnam unanimously agreed with the People's Republic of Kampuchea line aimed at achieving national reconciliation and resolving the Cambodian problem through political measures. The Soviet Union and Vietnam fully support the PRK's proposal at the Jakarta Informal Meeting [JIM] in July this year, considering it a specific program for settling the situation around Cambodia.

The agreement reached at this meeting is of special importance. It includes the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops and the nonreturn of the genocidal Pol Pot clique—both being the fundamental aspects related to the solving of the Cambodia issue.

We share a common belief that the important thing now is to coordinate action to implement the agreements reached at the JIM as well as those agreed upon by Chairman Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, especially those achieved during their third meeting. By vigorously accelerating activities in this direction, we will create conditions for reaching a political solution in Cambodia on the basis of national reconciliation.

The Soviet Union unswervingly supports the Vietnamese people's efforts to build a new life, defend national independence and sovereignty, and consolidate the fraternal alliance of comprehensive cooperation among the Indochinese countries, an important factor of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The line of normalizing Soviet-Chinese and Sino-Vietnamese relations is part and parcel of Soviet and Vietnamese coordination activities to resolve problems in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. This will clearly benefit the amelioration of the situation in this region, including the settlement of the situation in Cambodia. All sides positively appraised progresses in the Sino-Soviet relations, including the Sino-Soviet talks about the Cambodia issue. If from the very outset, the direct talks between the SRV and the PRC were aimed at restoring the relations of good neighborliness, this would hold a great significance. The Soviet Union supports Vietnam's efforts in this direction.

We commemorate the 10th signing anniversary of the USSR-Vietnam Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with fruitful experiences drawn from the works achieved and events occuring over the past 10 years in the domains of bilateral relations as well as global developments. These experiences allow us to affirm that the treaty has always conserved its general quality of serving as a basis for the coordination of our action today and will play the same role in the future when entering the 2d decade of making its principled provisions come true.

The Soviet people's hearts remain always wide open for the Vietnamese brothers. We rejoice their achievements, share their difficulties, and readily assist them in dire straits. We should recall here Comrade M.S. Gorbachev's statement: "The Soviet communists and people with their pure conscience may say that they have always sided with the Vietnamese people and have done all that they can to help the Vietnamese people in their just struggle."

The preferential line in the Soviet foreign policy is to consolidate friendship and develop all-around cooperation with socialist countries. The treaty of friendship and cooperation has served this lofty goal.

Near East & South Asia

Further Reportage on Akhromeyev Visit to Algeria

Press on Departure

*PM2411145588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian
23 Nov 88 First Edition p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, left Moscow for an official friendly visit to Algeria 21 November.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev was seen off at the airport by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General V.M. Arkhipov, USSR deputy defense minister; Army General D.S. Sukhorukov, USSR deputy defense minister; Colonel General V.N. Lobov, first deputy chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff; and other generals and officers. M. Yala, Algerian ambassador to the USSR, was among the send-off party.

Received by Premier

LD2311150588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1742 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 22 Nov (TASS)—A. Mehri, official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Party, today received Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and first deputy USSR defense minister, who is staying here on an official friendly visit.

The Soviet guest was also received by K. Merba, prime minister of Algeria. They examined questions of further strengthening and developing Soviet-Algerian cooperation.

There was also a meeting between Marshal Akhromeyev and M. Chelloufi, secretary general of the Algerian Defense Ministry.

Marshal Akhromeyev left Algiers today for a tour around the country.

Tours Military Installations

LD2411000188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2245 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 24 Nov (TASS)—Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy minister of defense, is in Algeria on an official visit. On 22-23 November he visited the western city of Oran. The

Soviet guest visited a number of Algeria's military installations and also toured the city sights. He returned to the Algerian capital on 23 November.

Ends Visit to Algeria

LD2411142888 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 24 Nov (TASS)—Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister, has ended his official friendly visit to Algeria.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev left for home today. He was seen off at the international airport by General K. Nezzar, chief of staff of the National People's Army, those in command of various forces of the National People's Army of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, and other officals.

V.N. Taratuta, USSR ambassador to Algeria, was also among those seeing him off.

Gorbachev, Najibullah Exchange Messages

LD1911063088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 18, BAKHTAR—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and president of the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet, has sent a greeting message to Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, when the former's plane was crossing the airspace of Afghanistan towards the Republic of India.

Mikhail Gorbachev in his message has wished the securing of peace and national understandings in the country at the earliest. He has also expressed confidence that the good neighbourly relations between the two countries are in the interest of the both countries.

President Najibullah in his reply message has praised the Soviet Union's efforts in securing peace in the country. President Najibullah has also called the friendly relations between the two countries in the interest of the people of both countries.

Afghan Defense Minister Cited on Rebel Defeat

PM2311141988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 88 First Edition p 3

[Own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik "Dispatch from Afghanistan": "Road to Towr Kham"]

[Excerpts] Kabul-Jalalabad-Towr Kham—KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported that Afghan Army units have cleared of insurgents the road linking Jalalabad, the administrative center of Nangarhar Province, with the border settlement of Towr Kham. A group of Soviet and foreign correspondents, including this KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, visited this disturbed section of the Afghan-Pakistani border, where hostilities had ended. [passage omitted]

"The routing of insurgents on the Towr Kham-Jalalabad road," Afghan Defense Minister Colonel General Shahnawaz Tanay stressed in a brief interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, "is not just another military defeat for the opposition but another political failure for those forces nudging the country again and again into the fires of war. Clearly, the implacable opposition have learned little from their defeats in Konduz and other Afghan troublespots. It is high time to get around the negotiating table, as demanded by the Geneva accords. The Afghan problems cannot be resolved by military means. There is no alternative to national reconciliation in the country."

That was what the minister said. The inhabitants of Towr Kham used different words, but the essence was the same: It is time to put a stop to bloodshed on Afghan soil.

UN Official Says No Soviet Accords Violation

LD2411203788 Moscow TASS in English 2023 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Helsinki November 24 TASS—The Soviet Union did not increase the numerical strength of its troops in Afghanistan, as some sources allege, according to Major General Rauli Helminen, deputy to the secretary-general's representative on settlement of situation relating to Afghanistan. Speaking in Helsinki today he said his team did not find any signs of violation by the Soviet Union of the Geneva accords.

Rauli Helminen also said that the situation in Afghanistan remained tense. Combat operations continued in a number of regions.

PRAVDA Reports Downing of Afghan Aircraft

PM2411160988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading: "All Passengers Perished. Pakistani Air Defense Systems Have Downed Afghan Aircraft"]

[Text] Kabul, 22 Nov—An Afghan An-26 transport plane with 22 passengers and 5 crew members on board was downed 19 November by a "surface-to-air" missile used by the Pakistani air defense troops.

BAKHTAR has reported that Pakistan's charge d'affaires ad interim in Afghanistan was summoned to the republic's Foreign Ministry in connection with the tragic incident. He was told that, according to data from Afghan competent organs, the aircraft, which was en route from Kabul to Nangarhar Province, was deflected from its course due to a technical fault and asked any nearby airport for help. The pilot's requests for help are recorded on tape. However, contrary to International Civil Aviation Organization regulations and a bilateral Afghan-Pakistani agreement, not only did the Pakistani authorities fail to offer the stricken aircraft aid, they also gave the air defense forces the order to open fire. This resulted in the deaths of all the passengers, among whom were women and children.

The Afghan Government has resolutely condemned this crime and stated that all the responsibility for its consequences rests with Islamabad. The Afghan Foreign Ministry has demanded that the Pakistani side send the remains of the victims home. The latest Foreign Ministry note sent to the UN good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, whose task it is to monitor the observance of the Geneva agreements, is also devoted to the destruction of the aircraft. The 125th and 126th notes draw the attention of UN observers to cases where Pakistan has given Afghan extremists "surface-to-surface" missiles; their use has resulted in the death of thousands of people.

New Details Reported

LD2311203588 Moscow TASS in English 1944 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 23 TASS—As was already reported, on the night from November 19 to 20 an Afghan transport aircraft AN-26, en route from Kabul to Jalalabad, veered off the course because of technical problems and was shot down by Pakistani anti-aircraft forces. BAKHTAR news agency reports that some of the inhabitants of Harlahai [name as received] area in Pakistan provided some of the details of the incident whch left 27 people killed. On that night, the eye-witnesses said, they spotted an aircraft flying at a low altitude, which gave distress signals by flashing its spotlight. The aircraft was shot down by a ground-to-air missile. The next day Pakistani soldiers arrived at the place of the crash, bulldozed the bodies of the victims into pits and covered them with earth. Eye-witness accounts confirm reports that the stricken aircraft asked for help from the nearby airport but was shot down in contravention of all international laws.

Earlier the Foreign Ministry of Afghanistan already lodged a protest over this crime and demanded that Pakistani authorities return the bodies of the dead to their relatives. Today Pakistan's charge d'affaires ad interim in the Republic of Afghanistan was again summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told that the Pakistani authorities, in defiance of Islamic law and traditions, did nothing to have the bodies returned to their relatives for interment. Drawing the attention of the Pakistani side once again, the Foreign Ministry demanded that it conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy and inform the Afghan Government of its results.

PRAVDA on Efforts To Return Afghan POW's

PM2311140788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Nov 88 Second Edition p 6

[P. Studenikin article under the rubric "Echo of Events: Rumors and Facts": "To Bring Our Guys Back Home"]

[Text] "Dear Comrades! I am one of 312 mothers with a son—Sergey Oblasov—reported missing in Afghanistan since 8 November 1983," N.I. Oblasova writes from Chernigov. "I have known nothing about my son for 5 years now. Tears dim my eyes and sobs constrict my throat, but I am writing in the hope that, maybe, one of our soldiers released from captivity has heard of or seen him. I beg and entreat you to write to me at this address: 250021, Chernigov, Minskaya Street, House No. 60....

"Please tell me what is being undertaken to release our sons from captivity...."

The fate of the "Afghan" servicemen who have ended up in captivity is of concern not only to their parents but to many of our people. Young pioneers from Komsomolsk-na-Amure, for example, propose setting up a special fund to pay ransom for the prisoners of war. Engineer G. Magulskiy (Moscow City), miner V. Panchenko (Donetsk City), and teacher S. Smirnova of Alma-Ata ask to be told about the activity of the recently created Coordinating Committee for the Release of Soviet Servicemen Held Captive in Afghanistan, which includes representatives of the AUCCTU, the Soviet Peace Defense Committee, the Union of USSR Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Komsomol Central Committee, and the All-Union War and Labor Veterans Council, writers, journalists, and prominent figures in Muslim circles.

We asked V. Mariya, the committee's senior secretary, to reply to these letters. This is what he said:

"So far 27 people have been brought back home from captivity. The hardest thing is to make an accurate list of those who have disappeared in Afghanistan and establish their whereabouts. We have asked our own and foreign organizations to help—the Embassies of the United States and Pakistan in Moscow—and a Soviet delegation has visited the headquarters of the International Red Cross, where it held talks on the fate of our prisoners. These include, unfortunately, people who did not withstand the torments and privations of captivity, yielded to persuasion, and did not believe USSR General Prosecutor A.Ya. Sukharev's statement that servicemen who were part of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan and who return home from captivity in foreign countries will enjoy all the political, social, and other rights of Soviet citizens. Some of them survived to live in the United States, Canada, and West European countries.

"In addition to the said committee, staffers of the Soviet Embassy in Pakistan are conducting a search for those who are missing. On the initiative of the Russian artist M. Shemyakin the International Committee for the Release of Soviet Prisoners of War in Afghanistan has been set up in New York for the same purpose. Incidentally, a delegation from it is currently working in Moscow.

"Is it possible to speak now of any positive results in this humane activity by thousands upon thousands of people in many countries? Of course, although not to the degree that we would like.

"The Coordinating Committee, for example, now possesses information that the Afghan opposition is taking measures to concentrate Soviet prisoners in one place. The mujahidin leaders have expressed preliminary agreement to discuss with the Soviet side the question of the fate of the Soviet prisoners of war who have fallen into their hands—on various pretexts, unfortunately, they have so far been evading these talks.

"Some of them, like terrorists, demand a ransom for our boys, despite the fact that international law condemns ransom as a way to resolve the question of prisoners. However, our side is meeting their demands in the name of saving our servicemen's lives and bringing them home.

"...Radio Moscow transmitters have recently been broadcasting an appeal of the Coordinating Committee of the Soviet Public in Pashto, Dari, English, German, and French: 'To each and everyone!... Our committee, whose humane activity is aimed at ascertaining the fate of every missing Soviet serviceman, is ready to make contact with any Western, Pakistani, or Afghan organizations, including those in whose hands the Soviet servicemen now are. We appeal to everyone listening to this broadcast: If you are able to help the prisoners, show humanity and charity! For, despite all differences of citizenship, world outlook, and faith, everyone must enjoy humane treatment on the part of those who condemn him, in whatever situation he finds himself. Once again we appeal to you for humanity and charity....'"

Afghan Spokesman Denies Chemical Weapons Use

LD1811211288 Moscow TASS in English 1858 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 18 TASS—The Afghan Armed Forces have never used and will never use chemical weapons against anti-government forces, Muhammad Nabi Amani, an official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, stated today in comment on the new outburst of an anti-Afghan propaganda campaign in which the old myth of the enemies of the republic is being resorted to.

In an interview with TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin, he pointed out two basic causes which make Western propaganda reiterate again and again the absurd and repeatedly exposed conjectures.

"Firstly", Amani holds, "foreign patrons of the opposition try to boost its morale, and to demonstrate its support for it following a defeat, this time in Nangarhar. Secondly, they try to convince the world public that only an alleged use of barbarous types of weapons by Afghan troops prevents the rebels from winning".

"The sources of the current campaign can be traced back to the beginning of the 1980s. The 1984 uproar over an alleged use of toxic agents in Konar Province led to a trip to Afghanistan by a special U.N. mission to investigate the accusations. A thorough analysis of the locality—chemical weapons leave easily found traces in soil, plants, and water—convinced the specialists of the falsity of assertions by the opposition and its masters abroad".

"This example", pointed out the spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, "is fully applicable to the present period. The more so as a U.N. mission, whose function is to monitor compliance with the Geneva agreements, operates in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It would be enough for Pakistan to apply to the mission with a statement that chemical weapons were used for the personnel of the mission to launch an inquiry. The Afghan authorities are ready to provide all necessary conditions for that."

"Besides," Amani said, "we are ready to receive any other international commission for an objective investigation of the accusations. The fact that those who are busy fanning up yet another anti-Afghan campaign do not demand such an investigation, signifies that they are confident that the outcome of such an investigation would be unfavourable to them".

In conclusion Muhammad Nabi Amani emphasized that Afghan troops could not use toxic agents because they did not have such weapons in their arsenals.

The foreign journalists' trip to Nangarhar Province, where the army had allegedly resorted to toxic agents to achieve military success, also became a serious refutation of the conjectures. None of the journalists, among whom were representatives of Western mass media, saw any traces of an alleged use of chemical weapons.

In the administrative centre of the province, the city of Jalalabad, which the journalists visited, the commander of a local military hospital stated directly in answer to correspondents' questions that not a single person suffering from chemical agents had been brought to the hospital over the past ten years. Not only Afghan servicemen but also civilians and even wounded insurgents are given medical treatment in the hospital.

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However, Colonel Muhir pointed out, one cannot say that chemical weapons were not used in the country at all. They were used by insurgents, not the army. Thus, U.S.-made chemical grenades were captured in Herat Province in 1983. Many members of rebel groups who were taken prisoner also spoke of being trained in the use of such weapons. Those who want to see specimens of chemical weapons can always visit the Kabul museum of captured weapons.

PRAVDA Cites Gandhi on Gorbachev Visit

PM2511100188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
23 Nov 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "High Assessment. R. Gandhi—On the Results of the Soviet-Indian Dialogue"]

[Text] Delhi, 22 Nov—"Our friendship with the Soviet Union has stood the test of time," Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi stated in parliament. Delivering a report on the results of the Indian-Soviet summit talks, R. Gandhi indicated that the visit to India by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the second in the past 2 years, illustrates the desire of the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people to preserve, enrich, deepen, and broaden this friendship. We value this highly, the prime minister noted, and we respond in kind.

The head of the Indian Government stressed the common devotion of India and the Soviet Union to strengthening peace, friendship, and cooperation, which was reflected in the Soviet-Indian summit statement. Rajiv Gandhi expressed the conviction that the agreements signed in Delhi "will give an additional boost and new scope to our already multifaceted economic, scientific, and technical cooperation." I can also add, the prime minister said, that our ties have grown considerably stronger owing to the unique familiarization of the peoples of India and the Soviet Union with one another's ancient, rich, and diverse cultural heritage.

Talking of the award of the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to the Soviet leader, Rajiv Gandhi said the following: M.S. Gorbachev's contribution to the process of ridding the world of nuclear weapons and strengthening the forces of peace, cooperation, good will, and mutual understanding has led to qualitative changes in the international situation. We rendered this due to a man who symbolizes the passionate desire for peace, progress, and prosperity, to which Indira Gandhi devoted her life.

The prime minister noted that since his previous meeting with the Soviet leader major events have taken place in the world that have led to a lessening of tension and the beginning of a new era in international relations. "Thanks to M.S. Gorbachev's bold and creative initiatives, confrontation is being replaced by cooperation, suspicion by trust, and doubt by hope," he said.

The head of the Indian Government fully shared the concern expressed by the Soviet leader in the course of the Delhi talks regarding the continuing violation of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. The Geneva agreements provide for the cessation of arms deliveries from Pakistan to the Afghan opposition, R. Gandhi pointed out, however, this has not happened. Moreover, he stated, "Pakistan's interference has intensified and become even more direct and blatant." The prime minister stressed that India has no differences of opinion with the Soviet Union on the Afghan question since the Soviet Union also advocates the complete fulfillment of the Geneva agreements by everyone.

Indian Vice President Lauds Statesman Gorbachev

PM2311135188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
20 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report on speech by Indian Vice President S.D. Sharma, chairman of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Foundation International Jury, under the general heading "Presentation of Indira Gandhi Prize": "Speech by S.D. Sharma"]

[Text] President and Mrs Venkataraman!

President Gorbachev and Mrs Raisa Gorbacheva!

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Sonia Gandhi!

Mr Julius Nyerere!

Dr Muhammad al-Zayyat!

Your excellencies and esteemed guests.

We are gathered today for a ceremony that is at one and the same time sad and happy. It is sad because it is associated with the name of Indira Gandhi, whose memory still makes us grieve. But since today would be her birthday we should rather remember her optimism and successes, and how lucky we were to be her colleagues. We should devote our lives to the goals that were dear to this great heroine of history.

This ceremony warms our hearts since among us is a statesman who is welcomed worldwide for his vision and brilliant initiatives. Expressing respect for His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev means recognizing dynamism, imagination, and boldness for the sake of peace.

Leaders of countries are obliged to be concerned about their people's interests. But when their concern rises above the time and place in which they live, they are called statesmen. There is a select band of chosen statesmen who change the destiny of all mankind. Our country has produced three of this select band—Mahatma

Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. They saw mankind as their own family. They devoted their lives and energy to ensuring that the world became more reasonable and secure.

With us today is a statesman who has already changed history. The world's attention has been riveted on him since he assumed high office in the Soviet Union. His ideas and actions are imbued with the conviction that people's spirits should constantly rise to new heights of achievement free from stale habits and prejudices. The restructuring which he proclaims is more than a change in the structure of his country's institutions and methods. It is recognition of the fact that growth and evolution are a law of life. The glasnost for which he campaigns is more than candid self-analysis. It stands for openness that allows new ideas to flourish and new rays of light and insight to shine through.

Until quite recently there was such distrust and hatred in the international arena that it seemed a catastrophe could not be averted. But now hope has appeared. The world has been given another chance. President Gorbachev has made a personal contribution to this change, which has been decisive. He has steadfastly supported the great value of world cooperation to ensure world survival. The breadth and sincerity of his disarmament proposals have silenced the skeptics and critics. The declaration signed by President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in this city 2 years ago reminds countries and peoples that nonviolence is the only correct way to preserve mankind in our nuclear age.

The aim of the Indira Gandhi Prize, established by the Indian people in her commemoration, is to strengthen peace and the majesty of life. President Gorbachev has made a weighty contribution to achieving this goal. We are very grateful to him for making such a long journey to come here to receive the prize. This is further proof of his adherence to peace and his friendly disposition toward the Indian people.

Permit me to wish President Gorbachev long life and further successes in his work to safeguard peace—peace which is today a supreme goal and an indispensable necessity.

Indian Parties' Officers, USSR Guests Confer

PM2311122988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
20 Nov 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Within the Framework of the Visit"]

[Text] Delhi, 19 Nov—CPSU representatives R.N. Nishanov, first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee; and K.N. Brutents and Ye.M. Primakov, candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee, visited the headquarters of the Indian National Congress-Indira [INC-I] Party, the Communist Party of India [CPI], and the Communist Party of India, Marxist [CPI-M] within the framework of M.S. Gorbachev's visit to India. The Soviet representatives conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from M.S. Gorbachev and talked briefly about issues on which the CPSU is currently working.

Taking part in the talk at the INC-I headquarters were V.N. Gadgil, G.N. Azad, K.N. Singh, and O. Fernandes, secretaries general of the party's All-India Committee; and A. Matran, secretary of the All-India Congress Committee (I) International Department. They stressed that M.S. Gorbachev's visit is generating a considerable response in all sections of Indian society. He is being welcomed as a good friend of India. This reaffirms the people's support for the course of strengthening in every possible way the close Soviet-Indian cooperation that has become a constant of the two countries' foreign policies. It was also stated that India is following with great interest and sympathy the restructuring in the Soviet Union, which contains great potential for influencing world events. The INC-I leadership invited the CPSU delegation to the INC-I All-India Committee session scheduled for February 1989; the invitation was gratefully accepted.

R. Rao, general secretary of the CPI National Council; M. Farooqi, secretary of the CPI National Council; and N.D. Sundriyal, member of the CPI National Council, stated that Indian Communists welcome M.S. Gorbachev's visit. His speeches in India are meeting with the warmest reaction from the Indian public. The outstanding importance of the visit is underlined by the fact that it is taking place at a time when favorable improvements have emerged in the international arena—undoubtedly promoted by the further strengthening of Soviet-Indian friendship—and at a time when, thanks to restructuring processes, the Soviet Union is becoming even more attractive in Indians' eyes.

Our party, R. Rao said, which has always consistently adhered to the development of Soviet-Indian cooperation, supports the Indian Government's course in this direction and its foreign policy as a whole.

Representatives of the CPI-M—H.S. Surjit, M. Basavapunnaiah, and Samarnath Mukherjee, members of the Central Committee Politburo; and Central Committee Member S.R. Iechuri—said that the CPI-M considers the visit to be very important from the standpoint of strengthening Soviet-Indian friendship and using its inherent potential to positively influence the course of international events in Asia and the world as a whole. In India, where this friendship has deep roots and has strengthened particularly since the conclusion of the 1971 Treaty, everyone agrees that the further development of friendly Soviet-Indian relations will help to improve the international situation and create a barrier to intrigues aimed against freedom and the independence of the peoples.

They talked briefly about the preparatory work connected with the coming 13th party congress this December.

Bessmertnykh Meets Iranian Ministry Official

LD2311141288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1321 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, 23 Nov (TASS)—Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, USSR first deputy foreign minister, today received Mahmud Va'ezi, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran, who is in the Soviet Union to prepare for the routine 11th meeting of the standing commission of economic cooperation between the USSR and Iran. Questions of a primarily bilateral nature were discussed.

Soviet-Iranian Consultations Held 14-17 Nov

LD2311174388 Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—A briefing at the Press Centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today was told that Soviet-Iranian working consultations on consular affairs were held on November 14-17 in Tehran. Viktor Zelenov, chief of the consular directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, and A. Zifan, director-general for consular affairs of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took part in the working consultations.

A wide range of problems related to the present state of and prospects for the development of the bilateral relations in the consular area has been discussed. The sides have agreed to issue visas to citizens of the two countries as promptly as possible. An agreement has also been reached to hold bilateral consultations on consular affairs on a regular basis.

The consultations were held in a constructive spirit, in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and goodneighbourliness.

Situation Facing Benazir Bhutto Viewed

PM2411133788 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Nov 88 p 14

[Mariam Salganik "Political Portrait": "Benazir, Daughter of Zulfikar"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Before our eyes arises the "new tradition of Southeast Asia," as Benazir Bhutto herself put it, "when women take up the banners that have fallen from the hands of their husbands, brothers, and fathers—a political succession through the female line."

This is so: Sirimavo Bandaranaike in Sri Lanka, Corazon Aquino in the Philippines, Hasina Wajed in Bangladesh, Indira Gandhi in India.... And now Benazir Bhutto. These are women whose political path begins in their families and who then rise to the heights of power—and, furthermore, in countries where traditions do nothing to encourage women's independence.

The "solution" to this phenomenon must be sought in the particular features of the Asian mass consciousness which—for a great many reasons—identifies a political program with the personality of the leader propounding it to a considerably greater extent than is done in the West. And it is just a single step from personifying a policy in the form of the leader to family metaphors of the "father of the nation" type. Actually, in this instance it is better to phrase it differently: Benazir Bhutto may become a "sister" to all of Pakistan in the way that Indira Gandhi was the "daughter of India."

Who can say now how the new chapter in Pakistan's history will differ from previous ones?

Pakistan has an acute and urgent need for peace, stability, and economic development—interest payments on the state debt and military spending currently amount to 79 percent of the country's total expenditure. The IMF is in no hurry to grant Pakistan credit but time is pressing Does that mean, then, it will have to go on clinging to Washington? But in exchange for that America will demand that it follows the U.S. line—what need has America of an independent Pakistan?—and the country will find itself in a vicious circle because the army will once again be a crucial force.

There is a far more sensible course—the course of achieving peace and stability through the observance of the Geneva accords, the ending of military and indeed all other interference in Afghanistan's affairs, and the establishment of good-neighborliness with India. It is absolutely clear that as long as military interference in Afghanistan's affairs persists no government will be able to control the mafia of weapons and drugs traffickers which in the space of a few years has become so large-scale that it has earned the name "alternative government."

And as long as there is a mafia with a direct interest in the division of the country no government will be able to resolve the problem of the most acute ethnic strife. Ethnic discord has now become one of the country's most distressing problems—Islam did not seal Pakistan's unity and the military dictatorship merely aggravated the discord.

Benazir Bhutto believes that the solution to the situation lies in economic and social reforms and democratization. But she is not beginning everything from scratch: She will continue her father's cause.

Filaret Heads Religious Delegation to Lebanon

PM2311090188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent M. Krutikhin report on interview with Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Belorussia, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Foreign Church Relations Department, in Beirut: "Interview With Metropolitan Filaret"—date not given]

[Text] **Beirut, 19 Nov—TASS correspondent Mikhail Krutikhin reports: "Peace and blessings on every home in Lebanon"—these were the words of greeting to the Lebanese people from Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk and Belorussia, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Foreign Church Relations Department and head of the Russian Orthodox Church delegation which is visiting here.**

In a conversation with the TASS correspondent he said: "It is extremely sad that such a tragedy has befallen Lebanon: Division, devastation.... But despite the whole tragedy of the situation, and following my contacts with the Lebanese people, I have gotten a very hopeful impression. All religious leaders with whom I met are worried about the situation in the country. Everyone is looking for ways to achieve reconciliation, to heal the wounds inflicted on Lebanon by military actions. Everyone believes that the Lebanese people belonging to different religious movements and different religious and nonreligious party communities can nevertheless attain unity. A united and indivisible Lebanon can still be reborn. Everyone places great hopes in this context on the Soviet Union and its peace-loving policy."

According to Metropolitan Filaret, a considerable role in supporting the Lebanese people in their desire to restore the country's unity can be played by the Russian Orthodox Church which enjoys great prestige and influence in Lebanon.

During the last 2 days the delegation met with the leadership of Lebanon's leading religious communities: Maronite, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Shi'ite, Sunni, and Druze. Problems of the quest for ways to settle the Lebanon crisis occupied a prominent position among the questions under discussion.

'Arafat Welcomes USSR Recognition of Proclamation

LD2111040788 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has referred to the generally positive international reaction to the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

Talking in Fes, in Morocco, Yasir 'Arafat welcomed the fact that the Soviet Union last Friday recognized the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state. It is noteworthy that more then 30 countries have so far recognized the proclamation of the Palestinian state.

Israeli Launch of Jericho-2 Missile Viewed

TA2111225788 Moscow Radio Peace and Process in Hebrew 1730 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary From Poor Reception] The British periodical JANE'S reports that Israel has performed another test launch of the Jericho-2 missile. The first test took place last year. It was the first test launch in the Middle East and in the entire world. World media noted that the inevitable result would be an increased arms race and escalation. Some countries openly mention the chemical option as the appropriate answer to the challenge of Jericho-2.

It will be noted that in reaction to the international reports on the first test launch of the Jericho-2, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that Israel develops only defensive weapons.

It is true that JANE'S is a publication enjoying a good reputation among security experts, but this time its report was published as issued by U.S. sources which preferred to remain anonymous. This poses several questions. The first question is: Why would the CIA, the Pentagon, or any other U.S. source give such a sensitive source to Britain? Jericho-2 is being developed with massive U.S. aid.

"To answer this question, it may be advisable to examine the timing of the report. It is in fact one of the first reports published after the Palestine National Council declared its recognition of Resolution 242. The step opened new horizons for a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, and in the Middle East in general. This development, however, does not suit the interests of the U.S. military-industrial complex, which sells a total of some $40 billion worth of weapons to the region annually. Those in the United States who are not interested in a peace settlement between Israel and its neighbors have proved more than once that they are ready to use any means at their disposal to exacerbate the tension and to encourage the Arabs to develop new weapons plans in order to neutralize the challenge of Israeli missiles.

"The result, therefore, is that the anonymous U.S. sources' report regarding the Jericho-2 test, whether true or false, harms Israel's security. If, contrary to Mr Peres' official statement, the Israelis proceed with the development of their own medium-range missiles—apparently with the cooperation of the United States—this is, first and foremost, a challenge to the allies, [word indistinct] strategic allies, to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. When Moscow and Washington are in the process of destroying their medium-range missiles, Israel's procurement of this weapon is liable to harm the strategic balance, forcing the other side to take countermeasures.

"If Israel is not developing medium-range missiles, the JANE'S report was intended to bring about another round of arms race in the Middle East.

"In the first instance, U.S. militarist circles are compensating themselves for signing the medium-range missile disarmament treaty. If the second is true, they guarantee themselves billions of dollars in profits at the expense of Middle East countries. In both cases, the gain is all for the United States. The loss is entirely Israel's."

Sub-Saharan Africa

RSA Agrees to Accords on Angola, Namibia
LD2211202488 Moscow TASS in English 1931 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Harare November 22 TASS—The Government of South Africa has agreed with the accords on the schedule of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the People's Republic of Angola and the granting of independence to Namibia. The agreement to this effect was reached in Geneva last week as a result of consultations within the framework of the talks between Angola, Cuba and South Africa with the mediation of the U.S. on the settlement of the situation in South-West Africa.

Roelof Botha, minister of foreign affairs of South Africa, said at a news conference in Pretoria today that the South African Government had informed of its decision the U.S., a mediator at the talks.

The news conference of the minister was held several hours after the government session.

SWAPO Said Ready To Form Government, Rule
PM2311155588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Nov 88 Second Edition p 5

[Report on I. Tarutin interview in Harare with Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, secretary general of the South-West African People's Organization, under the "Our Interviews" rubric: "'Independence Is Near and We Are Ready for it'"; date not given; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] An accord was secured at the recently ended quadrapartite meeting in Geneva involving the Republic of South Africa [RSA], Angola, and Cuba (with U.S. mediation) that opens the way to the proclamation of Namibia's independence. Our correspondent in Harare I. Tarutin met with Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, secretary general of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO], who was in Zimbabwe.

Harare, November—"I was always optimistic," he said, "and believed that sooner or later I would see my homeland free. Now my dream is coming true. I think that by the end of next year Namibia will be independent, if, of course, the RSA strictly fulfills the pledges it has made.

"Our people have waged a long and dogged struggle against enslavement. First we denied violence and wanted to secure changes by peaceful means. But the South African colonialists answered with very harsh repressions. SWAPO called for armed struggle. The partisan movement unfolded throughout the country under its leadership.

"It was the losses incurred by the invaders, the tremendous expenditure needed to maintain an army of occupation, and the burden of the never-ending war that forced the RSA to start talks on Namibia. The South African Army's defeat in Angola at Cuito Cuanavale also played a crucial role. Angolan units together with Cuban internationalists routed South African troops. The positions of the militarist lobby within the RSA have grown weaker. Politicians who believe that south-west Africa's problems cannot be solved by military methods have gained the upper hand. The only possible way to resolve these problems is through talks.

"The overall change in the political climate in the world and primarily the dialogue between the two great powers—the United States and the USSR—has also made an impact. The Namibian question is international in nature and is within the competence of the United Nations. That is why it would be good for all permanent members of the Security Council, in particular the United States and the Soviet Union, to act as guarantors of Namibia's independence.

"International monitoring is particularly important when holding elections. I figure that the refugees who left the country at various times should also take part in them. They should return irrespective of where their voting allegiance lies. Although it is my opinion that SWAPO enjoys the support of the absolute majority of Namibians.

"If it is victorious SWAPO's political platform is clear. It advocates the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and the creation of a democratic state. In the international arena we adhere to the principles of nonalignment and are in sympathy with national liberation movements, including the African National Congress [ANC], to which we will offer diplomatic assistance.

"Apartheid is unacceptable to us. But unfortunately we are, economically speaking, Pretoria's hostages. There is no proper industry in Namibia and even a large proportion of agricultural products have to be imported from the RSA. SWAPO has proclaimed socialist economic transformations in its program. But this is a far-off goal whose attainment will take very many years. At the present stage our attachment to South Africa and dependence on the multinational monopolies are too great.

"Their ownership status will be maintained [ikh sobstvennost sokhranitsya]. However, we will review the terms of foreign firms' activity. For instance, they must pay reparations for having operated in Namibia contrary to UN resolutions. But such reparations will not necessarily take the form of monetary compensation. For instance, companies may train Namibians at their own expense, which will make it possible to reduce the shortage of skilled cadres needed to govern the country.

"SWAPO also intends to display a considered approach on the agrarian question. Land will not be nationalized. White farmers will not lose their possessions. However, uncultivated areas may be bought up and given to the poorest peasants.

"SWAPO is aware of the full gravity of its responsibility in the event that it comes to power and gets the chance to form a government. Independence is near and we are ready for it."

Talyzin Attends Meeting Marking Ethiopian Treaty

LD2311025088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] In Moscow today there was a festive meeting devoted to the 10th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

Comrade Talyzin took part in the meeting.

Ethiopia Congratulated on Treaty Anniversary

PM2311133788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Nov 88 Second Edition p 1

[USSR party and government greetings to Ethiopian leaders on treaty anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] and Ethiopian president

To Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and Ethiopian prime minister

The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Soviet Government cordially congratulate you, dear comrades, the WPE Central Committee, the Ethiopian Councils of State and Ministers, and the entire Ethiopian people on the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

The past decade has convincingly confirmed the effectiveness of the treaty, which accords with the fundamental interests of the Soviet and Ethiopian peoples. Its signing was an important landmark in the history of Soviet-Ethiopian relations and brought them to a new level of dynamically developing fruitful cooperation that now covers all spheres of our states' lives. Collaboration between our countries is also growing in the international arena in strengthening universal security and mutual understanding among the peoples, and in the struggle for the complete eradication of colonialism, racism, and apartheid.

The Soviet Union attaches great importance to relations with friendly Ethiopia. Soviet people cherish the choice that the Ethiopian people have made in favor of the progressive path of development. They are following their efforts in building a new life with a sense of unswerving solidarity.

We express the confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Ethiopia, based on the firm foundation of the treaty, will continue to strengthen and deepen for the good of our countries' peoples and in the interests of regional and international security.

CPSU Central Committee

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

USSR Council of Ministers

Supreme Soviet Delegation Tours West Africa

Visits Ivory Coast

LD2011141788 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0810 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Ouagadougou, 19 Nov (TASS)—A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, led by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, is in the Republic of Ivory Coast. The delegation has been received by President Houphouet-Boigny and H. Bedie, National Assembly president. An exchange of views took place during the conversations on topical international problems and questions of strengthening bilateral ties. The head of the Soviet delegation talked in detail about restructuring in the USSR. F. Houphouet-Boigny highly evaluated the changes going on in the Soviet Union and wished the Soviet people successes along this road. He spoke in favor of developing mutually advantageous cooperation between the Republic of Ivory Coast and the USSR in various spheres. [passage omitted]

Arrives in Sierra Leone

LD2011141988 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1931 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Freetown, 19 Nov (TASS)—In accordance with the plan for international relations between the Soviet Union and Sierra Leone, a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in Freetown on an official visit today. It is headed by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Soviet delegation was met at the airport by Francis Conteh, deputy speaker of Sierra Leone's House of Representatives.

Members of the delegation will meet the leadership of Sierra Leone, exchange experiences in parliamentary work, and discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Meets Sierra Leone President

PM2411142788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Reception of Delegation"]

[Text] Freetown, 22 Nov—On Monday [21 November] Joseph Momoh, president of Sierra Leone, received a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is here on an official visit. During the conversation the sides noted the coincidence of positions on the main international problems, and assessed positively the state of Soviet-Sierra Leonean relations.

The president expressed gratitude to the USSR for its disinterested assistance to Sierra Leone, in particular in the training of national cadres, and expressed satisfaction with cooperation in the fishing sphere. Our people remember well that the Soviet Union was one of the first states in the world to recognize Sierra Leone's independence and to proffer the hand of friendship, he stressed. Sierra Leone is following the transformations taking place in the USSR very closely, J. Momoh stated. The successful completion of the programs outlined by the Soviet leadership will be a genuine triumph not only for the Soviet people but also for the whole of mankind, he noted.

Delegation in Guinea-Bissau

LD2311190288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Bissau, 23 Nov (TASS)—The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, led by Aleksandr Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today arrived in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on an official visit.

The delegation is making a tour of a number of West African countries. Earlier it visited Senegal, Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone.

East Europe

Reportage on Hungarian Political Developments

Central Committee Plenum Ends

LD2311065788 Moscow TASS in English 0646 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Budapest November 23 TASS—The plenum of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) Central Committee ended its work in Budapest on Tuesday [22 November].

It discussed urgent international issues and matters of Hungarian foreign policy, the order and methods of work of the Central Committee and the Politburo of the HSWP Central Committee, proposals on drawing up a law on national and local referendums, as well as organisational and other matters.

Party, Government Meeting Held

LD2311222788 Moscow TASS in English 2203 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Budapest November 24 TASS—A meeting of the Presidium of All-Hungary Council of the Patriotic People's Front—a socio-political mass organisation, was held here on Wednesday [23 November]. General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic Karoly Grosz told the meeting about the results of the plenum of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party held on November 22 and announced the decision adopted at the plenum to propose to the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic and the National Assembly that General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Karoly Grosz be relieved at his request of the duties of chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The Presidium of All-Hungary Council of the Patriotic People's Front jointly with the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party submitted a proposal to the Presidential Council and the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic that Miklos Nemeth, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, be elected chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic and that Rezsoe Nyers, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, be elected state minister.

Leadership Changes Noted

LD2411113788 Moscow TASS in English 1127 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Budapest November 24 TASS—By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin:

The session of the National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic opened in Budapest today. It is attended by Karoly Grosz and other party and government leaders.

The session examined organizational questions. Karoly Grosz was released of his duties of chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers at his own request.

Miklos Nemeth, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP), was elected chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, and Rezso Nyers, member of the Politburo of the HSWP Central Committee,—minister of state.

Deputies to the supreme legislative body will discuss questions on improving the operation of the system of political institutions, the progress with fulfilling the government programme for social and economic stabilization, tasks in the economic sphere for 1989 and other issues.

Pozsgay on Assembly Session

LD2411115688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0630 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] A report comes from Vladimir Stefanov, our correspondent in Budapest. He discusses the forthcoming work of the session of the Hungarian State Assembly, which opens today.

[Stefanov] There are several important questions of internal political life scheduled for examination by the parliament, including a report on progress in fulfilling the government economic stabilization program and a report on measures for modernizing the political system of society. The reporting official on the latter question will be Imre Pozsday, member of the Politburo of the MSZMP Central Committee and minister of state of the Hungarian People's Republic. Imre Pozsgay arranged a news conference for Hungarian and foreign journalists at which he briefly gave his thoughts on the matter in question. [passage omitted]

The Soviet radio correspondent posed the following question to Imre Pozsgay: At an MSZMP Central Committee plenum held at the beginning of this November, it was noted that the MSZMP recently had come up against danger emanating from radical and liberal bourgeois forces striving to secure leading positions in society. Can it be assumed that in the future these forces will be able to appear in the Hungarian political arena as political organizations?

[Begin Pozsgay recording in Hungarian, fading to superimposed Russian translation] Such forces exist, and it is possible that in the future they will appear in the political arena in still larger numbers. However, we have only one method at our disposal with regard to them, which incidentally corresponds to our recognized norms, and that is the method of political competition and struggle. We will not achieve the required goal through the force of power. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Grosz Views Hungarian Party's History

PM2411143188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Nov 88 First Edition p 4

[Article by Karoly Grosz, general secretary of the MSZMP: "The Renewal of Socialism. Today Is the 70th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Hungarian Communist Party"]

[Text] Budapest—Seven decades have passed since the founding of the Hungarian Communist Party. Its revolutionary spirit and humanist ideas live on in the work of the MSZMP. There is a link between the Communist Party and the main initiatives of our most recent history. Today, too, society expects from the party above all the answer to the question as to whether we will be able to cope with our problems and enter the 21st century renewed. Looking back on the path which our party has covered we have the right to say: There is much that we can build, and there is much that we can build on.

The foundation of a party of the Leninist type furnished proof of the revolutionary determination of the Hungarian workers movement. Simultanously, modern forms of activity and organization were created and a clear program was drawn up to resolve social and national problems which had accumulated in the course of history. The dissociation from the imperialist war and the proclamation of a socialist revolution rallied the best forces of society around the party. The 1919 Hungarian soviet republic became the symbol of the victory of the ideas of socialism, albeit for a short time. It lives on in the memory of peoples and the nation as a feat of the Hungarian working class and the Hungarian nation which is worthy of respect. We honor the memory of Bela Kun and his comrades-in-arms, founders of the party, and leaders of the first socialist state on Hungarian soil.

After 1919 the counterrevolutionary regime forced the Communists to go underground or emigrate, but it did not succeed in destroying the party. A decisive role in this was played by the fact that our party never renounced the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, swiftly reacted to the challenges with which history confronted it, and was able to rectify its mistakes and achieve ideological and organizational renewal. Its ability to face facts squarely and exactingly prevented it from becoming divorced from reality. Our party learned from its own experience that unrealistic demands and voluntarist decisions always act as a source of distortions. The ability to take note of reality pointed the party toward renewal, and in the mid-thirties, in a new situation resulting from the stabilization of capitalism and the intensification of fascism, it cast off its former concept and came out in favor of a democratic union of people's forces.

Liberation and the people's democratic revolution did not just inspire hope for the economic restoration of war-ravaged Hungary, but they also provided a great opportunity to accelerate its democratic development on many levels. The creation of the united workers party brought us nearer to that goal. The advice of the best representatives of the workers movement which applies to this day was: Treasure the unity of the party and preserve and augment by your daily work our common assets—the revolutionary traditions of the communists and the democratic values of the social democrats!

The leadership of the party at that time failed to take account of the prevailing realities, and a dogmatic approach and slavish copying of the Stalinist concept began to predominate. The standardized policy of building socialism which failed to take account of national characteristics inevitably led to a crisis. The feeble attempts to find a way out of the situation which had developed could not prevent a serious social and national tragedy. The events of October 1956 grew into a counterrevolution whose aim was to restore capitalism rather than improve socialism. However, its slogans and mass demonstrations also reflected justified dissatisfaction and concern for the fate of the nation, and this remains an important lesson to this day, although it does not alter the bases of our assessment.

Aware of our responsibility for the future, we must take an exacting, self-critical look at ourselves and the experience of the past 3 decades. This is our moral duty to the Hungarian nation and also to the international communist and workers movement. Only on the basis of a critical, sober analysis can we state with a clear conscience what was good and what was bad, what was due to our own mistakes and what was due to external processes beyond our control. Our party has embarked on such an analysis.

It is beyond question that after 1956 excellent work which served as an inspiration to the whole nation began in Hungary. The reorganized MSZMP broke with dogmatism, dissociated itself from revisionism, and elaborated a modern Marxist-Leninist policy on a national basis. We strengthened the foundations of our socialist system. We made advances in the development of democracy and, in comparison with the past, also by international standards. Modern agriculture was created. For millions of people the better life promised by socialism came within reach. An outstanding role in the elaboration and implementation of the course of the party, the strengthening of its unity, and the great work that has been done in recent decades, was played by Comrade Janos Kadar.

An important lesson of the past years for the present is also the fate of the reform of the national economic management system. From 1968 the MSZMP proceeded from the premise that in order to modernize society new methods were needed, that people must be given a direct interest in building socialism. We were in a position where we knew the point of departure and had, in Engels' words, to "try to find the general trend of further development."

The concrete answers, however, had to be elaborated in the national crucible of reform, without failing to take account of resistance in our immediate and more distant surroundings. The need for reform in Hungary and the correctness of its basic decisions were borne out by our country's history and are being confirmed today by the experience of other countries. We have also learned from our own mistakes. Today we know that a renewal of society can be achieved only by means of a comprehensive political and economic reform. We understand that inconsistency, unprincipled compromise, and conservatism present a real danger to reform. Protecting the tender shoots of development requires patience, steadfastness, and stamina. We have also learned that reform cannot be an end in itself; it must promote the renewal of socialism. The reform does not relieve the MSZMP of the responsibility which is borne by a ruling party, and in no circumstances can it replace the people's disciplined, high-grade labor.

We made a mistake when we took a simplistic view of building socialism and forgot V.I. Lenin's warning that building a new society is a long series of transitions. We sincerely tried to create socialist relations. The state and cooperative forms of ownership not only became predominant, they also became rigid to such an extent that we practically deprived ourselves of the opportunity of making use of individual initiative and the population's resources while simultaneously introducing wasteful consumption. In distribution, too, we went further than was justified by the actual level of social production and labor discipline. In the sphere of scientific and technical development we dissipated our resources and, contrary to international trends, we embarked along a broad front on the simultaneous implementation of large-scale development programs. All this inevitably led to the emergence of disproportions, elements of strain appeared in society, and we proved unable to properly utilize the spiritual potential of knowledge accumulated over decades.

The proper development of socialist democracy and political culture was not ensured either. In many spheres exactingness toward leaders was relaxed and satisfaction with yesterday's results was widespread. At the same time, as a result of the exacerbation of domestic problems and against the backdrop of the general cares [zaboty] of socialism, doubts and skepticism spread in public consciousness, and this in turn called our socialist values into question and caused uncertainty.

The All-Hungarian MSZMP Conference in May 1988 marked a turning point in the history of the MSZMP. In the course of the lively debate during the past 18 months our party has analyzed the prevailing realities and reached a clear-cut conclusion: There is no alternative to the renewal of socialist society. Without change, without renewal we will not be able to preserve and augment our socialist values and the nation's self-respect. The MSZMP is united in its desire not to betray the long-term aim, but it is prepared, where necessary, in accordance with the prevailing situation, to renew this aim. After all, V.I. Lenin himself said that in the course of building socialism "we will have to add finishing touches, refashion, or start from the beginning more than once."

In order to renew society it is necessary to renew the party. Only a thinking, debating party, a party capable of vigorous action, is in a position to recognize and integrate the interests arising in society. Only such a force will be able to provide the most mature answer in the future to the key questions of our development. Only an open, democratic party will able to persuade, set an individual example, and conduct an equitable dialogue with the people. Only such a party will be able to exert a spiritual and political influence in the conditions of a Hungarian reality which is becoming more and more diversified.

Our paramount task is to strengthen the unity of the party. The political course of the party is born and the long-term concept is elaborated in the course of impassioned, heated discussions. While retaining our values, we are freeing our ranks from ideological preconceptions and unworthy accretions. Rank-and-file members of the party themselves are acting as the initiators of the renewal, which has the backing of the entire people. This initiative which proceeds from the grassroots is a major asset of our time and a guarantee of socioeconomic development in the longer term.

Our political program is well known. We want to create a modern, efficiently functioning socialist society, which is unthinkable without the restructuring of social relations and without a consistent political and economic reform. One of the fundamental values of socialism is the liberation of man's creative abilities. Therefore, we are striving for a broad development of socialist democracy and socialist pluralism, the self-motivation of society, and the creation of a socialist rule-of-law state which guarantees a maximum of human rights. We are learning to perceive society in all its diversity and to promote the development of new trends. We are learning to live in conditions of democracy and a modern political culture.

We have also defined our economic aims. Decisive measures are needed to stabilize the situation. We are forced to accept a temporary lowering of living standards and the difficulties, and even conflicts, which accompany the creation of a modern production structure. At the same time, we must not lose sight of the major task of the future—the creation of a planned socialist market economy based on a decisive predominance of social and collective forms of ownership. History leaves us no other option.

Seven decades ago the revolutionary process in Europe led to the birth of the Hungarian Communist Party, which became part of the international progressive forces. Today, too, our country and the MSZMP, as part of the socialist world, are marching in the vanguard of mankind's development. Our party is seeking cooperation with social forces which favor socialism and the development of human civilization, and it is prepared to conduct an active dialogue with all constructive currents.

The MSZMP is convinced that it can best serve the common cause of socialism and progress if it fulfills its own tasks to a higher standard. This is our active contribution to the cause of the renewal of the socialist world.

A principled unity of views, trust, and mutual understanding is the characteristic of the policy of the MSZMP and the CPSU. In accordance with the demand of the times we are developing our cooperation on principles of equality between the two parties, respect for each other's experience, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual responsibility and assistance.

Hungarian Communists fully support the policy of restructuring upon which the Soviet Union has embarked. The interests and aims of the MSZMP and the CPSU are close. Our aim is to create a democratic, humane, socialist society. Both parties have an interest in ensuring that the socialist social system functions effectively in both Hungary and the Soviet Union and in finding, in keeping with national conditions, solutions to the problems which will arise as we progress.

The new experience gained in concrete conditions in the course of the restructuring which has begun in the Soviet Union is facilitating the development of new thinking in the socialist world and is of great value for Hungarian Communists. All this provides a firm basis and promising prospects for the further strengthening of Hungarian-Soviet friendship, which is one of the most significant gains of socialism in Hungary.

Central Committee Greets Hungary on Anniversary

PM2411134388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Nov 88 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee message: "To the MSZMP Central Committee"]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

On behalf of Soviet Communists and all Soviet people, we send Hungarian Communists and working people fraternal greetings and cordial congratulations on the portentous date—the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Communist Party of Hungary.

The young party of Hungarian Communists inspired the people to socialist revolution. The Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919 was crushed by reaction, but the ideas of social justice and people's power have stood the test of time. Following the rout of fascism, Hungarian Communists, relying on the forces of progress and democracy, led the profound revolutionary transformations and set forth in building socialism in their land.

For 4 decades now Hungary's socialist choice has been demonstrating its accordance with mainstream international development. Socialism has become a powerful factor determining the trend away from feuds and wars toward all-human union and peace, which is particularly important on the European Continent, where military confrontation would mean a universal catastrophe.

Creatively applying Marxist-Leninist teachings under the conditions of their own country, the MSZMP is now actively working to renew socialism, reveal its creative and humanist potential, and profoundly transform economic and political structures. Soviet Communists and working people are following with sincere interest the efforts of their Hungarian comrades to implement the ideas put forward by the Hungaryian national party conference, and are confident of the success of socialist renewal.

We note with satisfaction the mutual support and solidarity in resolving the large-scale tasks of domestic and foreign policy facing our countries and peoples. The coordinated efforts and fruitful cooperation between the CPSU and the MSZMP, and between the Soviet Union and Hungary, are an important contribution toward improving the situation in and beyond Europe, and they actively promote the assertion of the new political thinking.

We wish the communists and all the working people of fraternal Hungary happiness and great achievements in the cause of creating socialism.

CPSU Central Committee

Hungarian Parties To Not Be 'Antisocialist'

PM2311141188 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Nov 88 p 9

[Article under the "Among Our Friends" rubric by Pavel Volin incorporating comments at Moscow news conference by S. Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador to the USSR: "Hungary: Thoughts on the Multiparty System"]

[Text] Readers will receive this issue of LITERATURNAYA GAZETA on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Hungarian Communist Party. On 24 November 1918, 1 month after the bourgeois revolution (which bears the name the "aster" revolution after the flowers with which soldiers decorated their caps) and less than 4 months before the formation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, which lasted just 133 days, the country's first revolutionary party of the working class was born in Budapest.

The path from that historic day to the recent MSZMP national conference (this May) was not straightforward but rather difficult and full of dramatic, sometimes even tragic events. Remember 1956, for example.... But as Comrade Sandor Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador in Moscow, noted during his speech at a news conference marking the glorious 70th anniversary, "the party often found itself in difficult conditions but also found a way out and managed to survive"...

The recent party conference was preceded by a keen political discussion on ways to democratize Hungarian society's life, and equally heated disputes on that topic were launched at the conference itself. In particular, the opinion was expressed that the multiparty system is not contrary to socialism and that different views should be permitted in an organized form within the party itself. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA has already written about this in the article "Socialist Pluralism. Where and in what?" (see the 6 July issue).

By way of developing the decisions of the conference and of subsequent Central Committee plenums, the preparation of "quite bold" reforms of political institutions, to use the ambassador's words, has begun. Thirty drafts of that type are now being prepared, including a reform of the Constitution and the electoral system. The first practical effects of the changes have already been felt. Approximately 60-70 associations and organizations have arisen, including some whose positions differ from those of the MSZMP. "But I must assure you," the ambassador said, "that the forces that defend socialism are quite strong in our country, and it is our intention not to gag those who disagree but rather to persuade them."

During the news conference I asked the ambassador whether a multiparty system is emerging in Hungary. Here is his reply:

"It must be borne in mind first and foremost that the discussion on the reform of the Constitution is not yet finished. I believe that the new constitution will also say that the leading force in our society is the MSZMP.

"In our opinion, the question of the multiparty system is not of topical significance for us at present. It is now particularly necessary to unite Hungarian society. Incidentally, not one of the informal associations has expressed the desire to function as a party. A draft on the informal associations will be submitted to the session of the State Assembly in December. The draft, prepared by the government, should note a number of features. The first is that the creation of other parties is not excluded, on the sole condition that they recognize the existing Constitution. The foreign press and a section of the Hungarian press have remained silent on this condition. We believe that the one-party system will remain for the foreseeable future, even though we do not rule out that new parties may emerge in years and decades to come. But our leadership and the Politburo are united in the view that, if other parties do emerge, it will not be on an antisocialist basis. And finally, one last important feature: If a multiparty system is formed, there will need to be a law regulating the creation of the new parties. Many newspapers abroad and some of our newspapers have interpreted all this as meaning that a multiparty system is bound to appear in our country.

"In the conditions of pluralism, because we are talking about the need to show and highlight different interests," Comrade Rajnai said in conclusion, "when the economic difficulties that our people are experiencing are overcome and the equilibrium within society is strengthened, we see no obstacles in principle to the existence of parties with different platforms for building socialism."

West Europe

President Mitterrand of France Visits USSR

Mitterrand Characterized
PM2511162188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Nov 88 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed biographical sketch of Francois Mitterrand: "On the Visit of French President Francois Mitterrand"]

[Excerpts] French President Francois Mitterrand is arriving in Moscow on a working visit 25 November at the invitation of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. He will be accompanied by a group of French ministers and prominent representatives of business circles. [passage omitted]

In a number of his recent statements the president has advocated increasing the scale of Soviet-French cooperation and developing mutual understanding on major international problems. He has also spoken in favor of stepping up France's role in solving disarmament questions. F. Mitterrand has made a number of proposals aimed at advancing talks on conventional and chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union would like to hope that new opportunities are currently opening up to bring our countries' stances on world problems, and particularly on questions of European policy, closer together, and to enhance the effectiveness of mutually beneficial cooperation between our two countries.

Mitterrand Arrives
LD2511124888 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 25 TASS—President Francois Mitterrand of France arrived in the Soviet Union today for a working visit.

At Moscow's Vnukovo-2 airport the French president was welcomed by Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, Anatoliy Lukyanov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and first vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other officials.

Gorbachev, Mitterrand Open Talks
LD2511134388 Moscow TASS in English 1336 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 25 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Francois Mitterrand of France, who arrived in the Soviet Union for a working visit today, have begun a conversation in St. Catherine's hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace.

The hall, designed and built as the throne room of Russian empresses, was named in honour of the Russian Order of St. Catherine instituted by Peter the Great in 1714 for his spouse.

The hall's historic interior has been preserved, only the throne was taken out. The hall is now one of the busiest rooms in the palace.

It regularly sees meetings between Soviet leaders and heads of state and government from foreign countries, receptions of foreign delegations and presentation of top Soviet awards.

Television Airs Interview With Mitterrand
LD2311140888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1650 GMT 22 Nov 88

[From the "France Today" program; interview with French President Francois Mitterrand by correspondent Anatoliy Potapov; at the Elysee Palace; date not given; Potapov and Mitterrand speak in French with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Potapov] Mr President, soon you will be having another meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. What do you think is the main thing for yourself in the talks? To what are you giving priority in the new summit meeting?

[Mitterrand] Primarily, I would like the establishment of bilateral relations on such a level that both our countries, in all of their activity, could have a broader scale of cooperation in their mutual interests. Then I would like to draw our points of view closer together, if this is necessary, on a number of major and vital world problems. I mean primarily the problem of disarmament. We can exchange opinions on that. There are many points on which we have joint accord. On others, it is necessary to elucidate mutual points of view. Then—I say the word then simply for convenience in the conversation, as all these problems are equally important—we must touch on questions concerning the so-called regional conflicts. I am thinking in particular about the Middle East problem. Both sides have expressed the wish for the convening of a conference on the Middle East with the aim of trying to settle this complicated problem. There must be discussion of what form the conference should be given. In addition, there are regional conflicts in Afghanistan and a number of other places. I am thinking, in particular, about the question of Cambodia. I would be glad to hear from Mr Gorbachev a definitive account of his intentions with regard to policy on these questions. These are the issues facing us. One also should bear in mind that with such a great country as the USSR it is very important to conduct an exchange of opinions on questions of Third World development.

[Potapov] The USSR and France intend to step up their cooperation in European affairs. How do you see the future Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals? In your view, what joint creative actions should be taken by the USSR and France, by all Europeans, without exception, to create such a Europe, our common home?

[Mitterrand] One must proceed from the actual state of affairs, which stems from the results of World War II. Since then, and in particular following the end of the war, Europe has been divided mainly into two parts. Of course, there are neutral states—those that do not participate in the two alliances—but it is quite clear that two military blocs exist. One is linked by alliance with the United States, and the other has the USSR as its leader. France is a member of the Western alliance. As a consequence of this confrontation, which has been in existence—I repeat—for over 40 years, the two parts of Europe have become accustomed to living in different ways. I mean differently from the social point of view, from the philosophical and economic point of view. In all spheres, in brief.

At the present time, even though this was not begun just today, it is necessary to learn anew how to work together, as we are inhabitants of the same continent and historical practice shows us, particularly from the example of relations between the USSR and France, that there is no sensible reason to continue the division of Europe. I believe we must begin work from the particular starting point where we are now, in order to draw the two different parts of Europe closer together.

We Frenchmen are also part of the European Economic Community. It has 12 member countries: the FRG, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, etc.. The USSR belongs to and inspires another economic organization. I believe that between the European community and the organization of countries that are called the Eastern countries—although this name is not really appropriate—permanent and more stable relations should be established, and mutual help should be practiced, if necessary. Where possible, organizations should be set up that could be managed jointly.

I think that the future of Europe demands that an end be put to the difficult period we know well. We must act in such a way that Europeans, who have common soures of culture, often identical interests, and at times even identical historical interests, really have a common home in spite of the division of Europe in 1945. That is a good expression: Europe is our common home. I do not wish to claim it. It belongs to its author, Mr Gorbachev. It is a fine idea. It is necessary for us to seek out possibilities to live under the same roof. This is a desirable aim.

[Potapov] You have called Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles one of the most important events in the post-war world. Do you think that people could soon witness the elimination of such weapons of mass annihilation as chemical arms, and could witness a lowering in the level of conventional weapons? In your view, what specific measures are needed to speed up this process?

[Mitterrand] This question contains several historical milestones. Let us sum them up. I spoke of one of the most important events in the post-war world because for the first time in the nuclear age, and perhaps for the first time outside it too, a start is being made on disarmament rather than continuing a pileup of weapons. This is being done on the basis of a joint accord, I repeat, for the first time. This is undoubtedly a major event. Instead of moving inevitably toward armed confrontation, the sides are making the situation less tense; they are starting to disarm. It is precisely here that the importance of the Washington agreement on medium- and shorter-range nuclear weapons lies.

The agreement on strategic armaments which is now in the negotiation process is a continuation of the path begun. Personally, I think it very important that the same process should be chosen for conventional armaments situated in Europe. I know that it is necessary to exchange opinions with the USSR on this question. Here also we must keep to a certain balance so as not to arouse disquiet, and so as to reduce the degree of threat.

Now about chemical weapons. An international conference is to be held on this question, which should ensure the observation of already existing agreements—signed more than 60 years ago—that ban the use of chemical weapons. It is necessary not only to ban the use but also to prevent the production of this type of weapon. I would like to hope that this is how things will proceed.

The difficulty lies in verification, but here too I would note that the Washington treaty for the first time made provision for verification on the territory of each participant in the agreement. Let us make use of this example and move on to the elimination of chemical weapons in the same way.

France's position is categorical. We have no grounds to give up chemical weapons, since the USSR possesses them, and on a considerably larger scale. The United States has increasing amounts of these weapons, and it is not just they who have chemical weapons. On the other hand, however, we will have no reason to produce these weapons as soon as an agreement is reached in this sphere. From that moment, each side will have to submit to this decision. When we reach such an agreement it will mark great progress in removing the threat of war.

[Potapov] As is well known, the French proudly say that the word impossible does not exist in the French lexicon. In your opinion, Mr President, is it possible to reach a level in Soviet-French relations, and in the whole complex of relations, at which no one would be able to use the word impossible, either in French or in Russian, with regard to various aspects of political interaction between the USSR and France and their cooperation in various spheres?

[Mitterrand] There are no prohibitions on the expansion of our relations. It is simply necessary to implement the already signed agreements. This will make it possible to move on to other, even bigger and better agreements. For example, it is necessary to breathe life into the Helsinki Accords insofar as all their articles are concerned. It is important to observe peace between countries, to make exchanges—including exchanges of ideas and people—freer, to expand trade links, and to respect human rights. If we are able to overcome those disagreements that we can still observe on certain internal statutes in our very different countries, nothing will be impossible. I can see no reason why France should not be able to cooperate with the USSR, just as it does with other friendly states. By the way, I would add that the Soviet people are also our friends.

[Potapov] Have you been following the changes in the Soviet Union? What is your opinion of these changes and your attitude to the Soviet restructuring?

[Mitterrand] I have read everything that has been printed about the changes in your country. In particular, I have read much that has been published in the USSR. I am following with interest the trend of these changes—the bold but difficult choices which are also difficult in terms of their implementation. Naturally, a vast country with deep-rooted traditions and structure cannot change everything in a single day. I have the impression that these changes will also promote the normalization of friendly relations with other states and peoples. They will become better when restructuring is implemented. I wish it success.

[Potapov] You will, of course, have little free time to meet Soviet people during your visit, as it will be a very busy one. In front of you, Mr President, you see the cameras of Soviet television. What would you like to say to Soviet viewers on the eve of your visit to our country?

[Mitterrand] First of all, I would like to say to the Soviet people that the French president's visit to the Soviet Union has a very definite essence: I come to you as a friend.

Both of our peoples have undergone much suffering. Over a long period of history they have almost always been together. This has been facilitated by the location of our countries. They are at different extremities of Europe, which balances the situation, constituting, as it were, the very fulcrum of the European scales.

I am coming to talk as a friend with the representatives of a heroic people, to whom I express my gratitude for their actions in the past world war. It is to them that we are obliged for their contribution to our liberty.

I also am coming to say to you: Let us work together. In order to implement this, let us try as much as possible to remove the most serious obstacles. Some of these already have receded into the past. Lately, we have achieved great progress in our relations, but other obstacles remain. Well then, let us get to work.

I also would like to say good luck to Soviet people. I wish you peace and prosperity. Once again, I would like to express my hope for mutual success.

[Potapov] Thank you, Mr President.

Moscow Praises Relations With France

LD2411102488 Moscow International Service in French 1800 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Report on interview with (Vsevolod Sukov), deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry Europe Department, by special correspondent (Vyacheslav Terekhov) on "current state of Soviet-French relations"]

[Text] On the occasion of the visit to the USSR that French President Francois Mitterrand will begin on 27 November, our special correspondent, (Vyacheslav Terekhov), asked (Vsevolod Sukov), deputy chief of the Europe Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, to comment on the current state of Soviet-French relations.

Soviet-French relations, (Vsevolod Sukov) said, have always been a priority in Soviet action on the continent of Europe. Certainly they have experienced high and low moments, but in my opinion it should be noted with satisfaction that today they are experiencing a further phase of active development, as shown by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to France, and other contacts at various levels.

The Soviet side awaits the French president's visit with very special interest, (Vsevolod Sukov) continued. The coming talks will cover a wide span of international problems and specific issues on the development of bilateral relations. Despite some nuances in our approaches to the future development of Europe, the main thing is that the USSR and France are united in their common concern to ensure a peaceful future for Europe, which will enable fruitful cooperation to develop among all the European countries.

Security on our continent is without a doubt one of the primary problems. On this level pride of place goes to disarmament, and to actually passing on to the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe. Here the objectives of the USSR and France coincide. In our opinion on this issue, there are promising conditions for substantial talks on these problems to start in the very near future in the interaction between our two countries. The USSR sees this as one of the essential tasks of its dialogue with France in the coming period.

There are a number of interesting ideas recently formulated by President Mitterrand, with a view to a real solution to disarmament issues and to ensuring security in Europe and worldwide, which are certainly taken into account in the USSR, (Vsevolod Sukov) continued. They include the president's proposal to examine the progress of disarmament on the continent during European summit. We are also glad of the French suggestion to refrain from modernizing tactical conventional and nuclear weapons, so as to give a chance to negotiations to balance conventional armed forces in Europe. We are also glad of the French willingness to change its position on the issue of chemical weapons and to contribute to bringing about favorable conditions for the final objective—the signing of a convention on the destruction and prohibition of chemical weapons.

We think that fundamentally new possibilities have appeared for collaboration between the USSR and France in the solution of regional conflicts, whose flames are burning various regions of the planet. Our two countries have sufficient political potential to help in solving crisis situations. For example, in the Middle East the USSR and France not only have similar viewpoints on the essence of this conflict, but also on the ways of resolving it, including an international peace conference for this region. Our points of view on the ways this conference should be prepared also converge.

Our countries also have similar viewpoints on the ways of solving the Cambodian problem. I think that a regional problem as important as the situation in Afghanistan will also be mentioned at summit level, (Vsevolod Sukov), deputy chief of the Europe Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said in conclusion.

Central Committee Official Views French Ties

PM2511144088 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Nov 88 p 3

[Bernard Guetta dispatch: "Moscow Welcomes Fact That France Is on the 'Right Track'"]

[Text] Moscow—Just 3 weeks ago, Soviet officials had no hesitation in publicly expressing doubts about the causes, depth, and effects of the change in French policy toward the Eastern bloc. They have now stopped doing so, as Mr Mitterrand's visit approaches.

They now seem to regard the change in Paris as definitive, and prefer to stop discussing the "interruption" in Franco-Soviet dialogue since the early eighties. "It is true that several years were wasted," Mr Zuyev, Central Committee international section deputy chief, has just told LE MONDE, "that this has had repercussions in the political and economic spheres, and that there are considerable efforts to be made. But we are on the right track again and the change in (French—LE MONDE editor's note) attitude toward the USSR cannot be disputed."

According to Mr Zuyev, this "right track" is the one laid down in 1966 by General de Gaulle's visit to the Soviet Union, because that placed "the USSR and France at the source of what was called the Helsinki process"—in other words the initial steps in the partnership that Moscow now wants to develop with all the Western countries.

"We started to implement our European policy with Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to France in 1985," Mr Zuyev said, "and we see President Mitterrand's forthcoming visit as the continuation of what was started." So, there is no more talk of "ups and downs," but of an "encouraging" sign in the shape of the presence of numerous ministers in the presidential delegation: "This means that there is a real desire for progress and this is particularly striking because it is merely a short working visit preparing for the big official visit in spring (by Mr Gorbachev to France—LE MONDE editor's note)."

He concluded: "France is still a very important partner for us, it is one of the five big powers, a country with which we can discuss all the world's problems and with which we have very similar positions in many spheres—a partner we would like to turn into a preferential partner and that is why there must be efforts by both sides."

There is no clearer way of expressing the fact that the Soviets think there is still a great deal to be done, and Mr Zuyev was much more critical on this point than the Foreign Ministry usually is, and he deplored the fact that there is "little difference from the situation 5 years ago" in the French stance on disarmament issues. The disagreements, he said, "persist," despite the change in Paris' position on chemical weapons and despite the "resumption of dialogue" on these issues.

With regard to the economic sphere, to which the two capitals attach great importance, Mr Mitterrand and the French ministers should clearly expect an offensive on the question of the limits imposed by Cocom, the Western body which regulates the export to the communist world of advanced technology products with possible military applications. "At a time when the Soviet Union has just successfully launched Buran, these restrictions are pointless," Mr Zuyev said, stressing that although "we need everything, we want to concentrate on the most modern products, those that represent the future."

This is therefore a problem, and many French industries are also not competitive in the prices and finance terms they offer, although these industries are regarded as being "among the leaders."

France is the USSR's fourth biggest trade partner, coming behind the FRG, Finland, and Italy—three countries whose commercial aggressiveness on the Eastern bloc markets has never waned and which have extremely strong positions.

Soviet-Austrian Cooperation Protocol Signed

PM2511091388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
24 Nov 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Final Document Signed"]

[Text] Vienna, 23 Nov—The protocol of the 20th session of the Soviet-Austrian Mixed Commission on Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed today in the Austrian capital. This document summarizes the results of the discussion of the methods and means of boosting the effectiveness of economic cooperation, elaborating and introducing new forms of it, and further developing dynamic and constructive trade and economic ties between the Soviet Union and Austria.

Speaking at the signing of the protocol, the delegations headed by USSR Finance Minister B.I. Gostev and Austrian Economy Minister R. Graf advocated the further broadening of trade, economic, and scientific cooperation between the two countries. They stressed that in the course of the commission's work readiness was expressed to strengthen economic cooperation between Soviet organizations and Austrian firms and to help implement the accords secured during the visit to Austria by N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in July 1987 and Austrian Chancellor F. Vranitzky's visit to the USSR this October. The importance of making active use of the new forms of cooperation in light of the partners' reciprocal interests and both countries' economic potential was also pointed out.

Aeroflot, Jews Targeted by Swiss Neo-Nazis

PM2511101788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Kosinskiy dispatch: "Bloodstained Asphalt"]

[Text] Geneva—Walls blackened by the explosion, fragments of window frames, broken glass everywhere. The blood of the injured on asphalt wet with rain, and the violet flashes of the ambulance lights. An explosive device hidden by criminals in a trash can by the glass windows of the Aeroflot office in Mont Blanc Street in the very center of Geneva was detonated at 1828. All six of the injured were chance passersby, and four of them were seriously injured. The Aeroflot building and a neighboring building were seriously damaged.

After the explosion an anonymous caller told police that the "national socialist front" claims responsibility for the blast. He warned that "communist facilities and Jews" may become new targets for terrorist acts. The police "are lost in conjecture" about who is behind the hitherto unknown "front," which has suddenly emerged in the country. The criminals' manner, the target of their threats, and the terminology they use, however, are sufficiently eloquent to avoid getting lost in conjecture.

"Neo-Nazis Intend To Create 'New Front'"—the TRIBUNE DE GENEVE reported a gathering of Swiss neo-Nazis in Winterthur under this headline just a few days before the explosion. They had decided to "celebrate" the 50th anniversary of the notorious "Kristallnacht" which started the widespread racist pogroms in Hitler's Germany. Their torchlit procession, which was permitted by local authorities who connived at this shameful "celebration," was thwarted thanks to a large antiracist demonstration which took place in the city. Signs reading "Don't Buy From Jews" over stores and stalls belonging to people of the "non-Aryan race" can still be seen in Winterthur today—this is the work of those same local supporters of the fuehrer.

According to TAGESANZEIGER ZURICH, the "German People's Union" (DVU), the largest extreme-right FRG organization, saw in Switzerland the right soil for spreading its racist and national-socialist ideas and is recruiting "Swiss Germanophiles" into DVU ranks. As a spokesman for the Department of Justice and Police stated, they see nothing wrong in the propaganda campaign being conducted in the country by the DVU, which, in their opinion, "poses no threat to Switzerland."

The attempt to organize the torchlit procession in Winterthur, racist slogans on the walls of homes, and blood on the asphalt in front of the Aeroflot building blown up in Geneva compel one to seriously doubt the correctness and perspicacity of these assertions.

New Ambassador to Netherlands Appointed

PM2511090588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
24 Nov 88 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "News Item"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade Aleksandr Davidovich Chikvaidze USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Netherlands.

Political & Social

USSR Draft Laws Amended After Baltic Protests

PM2411193388 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 48, 26 Nov-2 Dec 88 (Signed to Press 24 Nov 88) pp 1, 2

[V. Voronetskiy report: "Considering All the 'Pros' and 'Cons'"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Kremlin, Moscow. Hundreds of letters and telegrams are pouring in to that address each day. Today most of them are reactions to the publication of the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution and Law on Elections of USSR People's Deputies.

What is the fate of these documents and are people's opinions being taken into account in the final preparation of the laws? That question interests and perturbs many of our readers.

Immediately after the publication of the [official] documents a special deputies' preparatory commission was set up here, and under it two working groups of specialists and academics which have borne the entire burden of systematizing and analyzing the proposals and clarifications regarding the text of the drafts.

"Although the draft laws were carefully prepared by several commissions including academics and specialists of the USSR Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute and the Soviet Legislation Institute and staffers of the legal departments of the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and other departments," V. Lomonosov, leader of the commission and deputy chairman of the AUCCTU, said, "we too have had some work to do. We have received over 120,000 proposals and remarks. And they are continuing to pour in."

The preparatory commission met three times. Invited specialists, representatives of the union republics, and journalists took part in its work. Each time the nature of the materials received and the working groups' decision on them were carefully studied.

There is practically no article of the draft laws that was not discussed and analyzed by the specialists in the light of the various opinions and proposals. Many of the criticisms were debated in the working groups and at the commission sessions. For instance, a sharp reaction was aroused by the proposal to remove from Article 7 of the draft Law on Elections of People's Deputies the provision that representatives of the press, television, and radio are entitled to be present when the results of the election for an okrug are being determined and the general results of the elections are being summed up. The proposal was rejected.

Paragraph 2 of Article 108 [of the draft constitutional amendments], which aroused the greatest number of objections in the Baltic republics, has been clarified. The new wording is as follows: **"the adoption of decisions on questions of the national-state structure that are within the jurisdiction of the USSR." It is proposed to remove from Paragraph 12 of Article 108 the words to the effect that the repeal of legislative acts adopted by the supreme organs of state power in the union and autonomous republics is within the exclusive jurisdiction of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies.** It should be noted that a number of other amendments to the drafts are also aimed at creating the necessary conditions for ensuring greater autonomy [samostoyatelnost] for the republics. Thus in Article 113 (Paragraph 7) it is proposed to **include words to the effect that the Supreme Soviet carries out legislative regulation within the limits of the competence of the USSR, and to delete from Paragraph 9 of this article the words to the effect that the Supreme Soviet determines basic guidelines for the activity of republic and local organs of state power and administration, leaving only the provision about its laying down general principles for the activity of the aforementioned organs.** It is proposed to supplement Article 119 with a provision that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium **"publishes in the languages of the union republics USSR laws and other acts adopted by the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, the USSR Supreme Soviet, its chambers, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet."**

A considerable number of proposals has been received regarding Article 152, relating to the procedure for the election of judges. The deputies' preparatory commission agreed with these proposals and submitted an amendment to **ensure that rayon, city, okrug, oblast, and kray judges are elected by the relevant superior soviets of people's deputies.**

In the draft Law on Election of People's Deputies of the USSR, the commission proposed **removing the restrictions on the size of labor collective required to legally entitle it to nominate candidate deputies with due regard for working people's proposals. The words "as a rule" have been deleted from many articles.**

The deputies and specialists showed firmness and a considered approach in discussing controversial proposals. These concerned, for instance, the workings [rezhim deyatelnosti] of the Supreme Soviet, the length of its sessions, the procedure for releasing members of the Supreme Soviet from the performance of their official or production duties, the powers of the Constitutional Oversight Committee, and certain other questions. The deputies' preparatory commission concluded that **it is inexpedient to take these proposals into account since these questions are resolved more clearly in the draft laws and are supported as consonant with the tasks of restructuring by the majority of reactions received.**

Proposals and remarks aimed at making the constitutional norms under discussion overly detailed did not meet with support. Although there are no essential objections to most of them, they overstep the bounds of constitutional regulation and may be reflected in current legislation.

Essentially unacceptable proposals were rejected. For instance, the proposal that USSR Government resolutions and ordinances are binding on the union republics only after they have been ratified by the union republic's Council of Ministers and the proposal on granting the union republic the right of veto over USSR laws if they concern the republic. The commission **did not deem it possible to accept such proposals since they run counter to the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference.**

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium also received many proposals transcending the bounds of the current, first stage of the political reform. These concern sections, chapters, and articles of the constitution that had not been referred for discussion. Acknowledging their importance, the deputies' commission believes that they will be resolved later, at subsequent stages of the reform of the political system.

The preparatory commission proposed making over 40 amendments and clarifications to the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution, and these concern 24 of the 53 articles referred for discussion. It submitted its conclusions and proposals for examination by the joint session of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Legislative Proposals Commissions held 19 November.

There too a businesslike and highly responsible atmosphere reigned. Over 10 deputies placed their own proposals and remarks before the meeting. And once again there were additions, clarifications, and amendments to the wording. G. Sadretdinova, chairman of a rural soviet ispolkom in Tataria, proposed clarifications to the draft Law on Election of People's Deputies. S. Gusev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, and A. Vasilyev, USSR deputy prosecutor general, submitted an amendment to Article 96 upholding the right of judges and prosecutors to be elected to soviets. Jurists will not hamper their work but only facilitate it and enhance the prestige of organs of power, they believe. The delegates approved these amendments. But the proposal of M. Fomicheva, member of the Legislative Proposals Commission and foreman at the "Lenta" Textile Haberdashery Factory—that union laws be deemed to be adopted only if all the groups of deputies representing the union republics vote in favor of them—was resolutely rejected. Nor was there support for the proposal of Deputy Kh. Parik, director of the "Tartu" Sovkhoz—that only the changes and additions to the draft laws necessary in order to hold elections to the supreme organ of state power be adopted, postponing consideration of the rest. That was how the joint session of the commissions went. With two abstentions, the deputies accepted the draft laws along with the amendments made to them and decided to refer them for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The deputies' preparatory commission and its working groups were told to continue work to study and generalize the proposals received from working people and public organizations in order to take them into account in further work on carrying out the political reform in the country and improving legislation and in all processes of the democratization of our society's life.

Ethnic Violence Heightens in Azerbaijan, Armenia

Armenians Killed in Kirovabad

AU2411154288 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 24 Nov 88

[By Anne Penketh]

[Excerpts] Moscow, Nov 24 (AFP)—Moslem Azeris in the Azerbaijani town of Kirovabad Thursday [24 November] began systematically attacking Armenians in a new wave of ethnic violence which left an unknown number of people dead, Armenian sources said.

The Armenians, contacted in the Armenian capital by telephone, said that Soviet Interior Ministry troops based in Armenia had been sent to Kirovabad, which has been under curfew since Wednesday along with the Azerbaijani capital Baku and the Azerbaijani region of Nakhichevan.

An Armenian journalist with the official news agency ARMENPRESS said that killings of Armenians had also started in Nakhichevan, the capital of an autonomous republic belonging to Azerbaijan lying along the Iranian and Turkish borders. But no details were available on the situation there.

"The Azeris are cutting up Armenians. It's awful," a resident from Yerevan with relatives in Kirovabad told AFP after speaking to her relatives in the town where roughly one third of the 270,000 population is Armenian.

The women said that children were being collected inside churches while waiting for the troop reinforcements to arrive. Twenty helicopters were expected to evacuate people from the town. [passage omitted]

But the Armenian Interior Ministry announced that after Tuesday's clashes, at least one Armenian woman had been killed by the attacking Azeris.

A Russian resident of Kirovabad told AFP that the Azeris were burning cars Thursday and that all the shops had been closed. "I'm scared," said the lady.

"It's worse than Sumgait", last February's massacre of Armenians in the industrial Azerbaijani city of Sumgait, said a member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. The Armenian, Bagrat Asatryan, had been in contact with Armenians in Kirovabad.

The ARMENPRESS journalist said that the Azeri attacks were "pogroms", or organised killings of an ethnic minority.

Other incidents between Azeris and the Christian Armenians have been reported in Kirovabad since February, when the Armenians began mass demonstrations to press for the transfer of the Armenian-dominated region of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. [passage omitted]

The curfew was clamped on the three regions after "acts of hooliganism" and "attempts to disrupt traffic and industry", an official from the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry told AFP.

A huge rally of more than 800,000 Azeris took place in Baku Thursday—or virtually the entire population—where "people ignored the curfew" imposed Wednesday night, according to a television journalist in the capital. The troops reportedly did not intervene.

The television reporter said the Azeris, who have staged increasingly large demonstrations since last week to state their claim to Nagorno-Karabakh, wanted "the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh to respect Azerbaijani laws. They are acting as if they were free".

The demonstration in Baku, according to the television reporter, was bigger than Wednesday, when an estimated 800,000 people protested the construction by Armenians of an aluminium plant in Shusha, in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the Foreign Ministry official, the Azeris were protesting the fact that the project had not been "approved". The central government in Moscow is financing a major economic reconstruction of Nagorno-Karabakh, having refused Armenian demands to transfer the territory to Armenia.

Armenian sources said that the Azeris were also demonstrating in support of a young Azeri sentenced to death by a Moscow court last week for his role in organising the mass murders of Armenians in Sumgait.

It was the first death sentence passed in the trials of more than 80 persons arrested in connection with the anti-Armenian riots.

In Armenia, where up to 300,000 rallied at Opera Square in central Yerevan Wednesday night, a Foreign Ministry official told AFP that the parliamentary session could not be held on the Constitution "until the situation calms down".

He said that deputies had gone to their home regions, and it was not known when the Constitution would be discussed.

Some Armenian nationalists charge that the deputies are using a delaying tactic to avoid debate on the controversial proposals, which according to critics would lessen the power of the 15 republics. [passage omitted]

Further on 'Pogrom' in Kirovabad

AU2411125188 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, Nov 24 (AFP)—An "anti-Armenian pogrom" was underway Thursday [24 November] in the northern Azerbaijan city of Kirovabad, an Armenian source contacted by telephone said.

Helicopters had been dispatched from the Armenian capital Yerevan to try to "rescue" some of the population, according to Bagrat Assatryan, a member of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Assatryan, speaking from the offices of the Armenian Writers' Union in the Armenian capital Yerevan, said that it was "worse than Sumgait".

A total of 32 people were killed, 26 of them Armenians, in an anti-Armenian pogrom at the Azerbaijan city of Sumgait in February, according to official figures.

Mr. Assatryan said he had just spoken by telephone to Armenians in Kirovabad.

The authorities imposed a curfew late Wednesday [23 November] in the Azerbaijan cities of Kirovabad, Nakhichevan and the capital Baku following an outbreak of inter-ethnic unrest.

Three soldiers were killed and 126 people were injured in riots in Kirovabad and Nakhichevan on Tuesday.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators were out in the city centres of both Yerevan and Baku on Thursday as the situation deteriorated.

Special security troop units had been sent to Kirovabad, the official Armenian information agency ARMENPRESS said.

Some 20 helicopters had been dispatched to Kirovabad to "rescue the women and children", according to ARMENPRESS, contacted by telephone.

The agency did not say who had taken the decision to send the helicopters.

Kirovabad has a population of more than 200,000.

Yerevan Commander Appointed

NC2511125688 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] By order of the USSR minister of defense, Lieutenant General Samsonov has been appointed military commandant of Yerevan city. His address to the population and working people of our city specifically states:

The tranquility of citizens under normal conditions of labor, rest, and living is being threatened by a serious danger. For the purpose of guaranteeing the safety of citizens, ensuring the normal work of transport and public institutions, as well as to uphold the necessary order in the city and its adjoining rayons, as from 2400 hours on 24 November this year, curfew [komendantskiy chas] is being introduced in Yerevan city. For this purpose a number of special measures are being put into effect that govern the life and activities of the citizens of the city, the work of institutions, enterprises and other public establishments:

1.—To restrict the entry into Yerevan city of all persons not registered for residence in the city, with the exception of those on special assignment and having passes, or of those travelling on long distance trains and Aeroflot aircraft. MVD organs will set up checkpoints at entry points into the city.

2.—Free pedestrian traffic throughout the city will cease from 2200 to 0600 hours with the exception of persons holding special passes.

3.—From 25 November 1988, work at soviet, cooperative, and public organizations will begin at 0900 and end at 1900.

4.—City transport will work as follows:

The subway and the tram and trolley bus fleet from 0700 to 2100 hours, except for automobiles having special passes.

5.—Cultural and welfare facilities—movie houses, theaters, public baths, barbershops, public food places—will close down at 2000 hours.

6.—Trading hours in city stores are set as 0700-2000 and kolkhoz trade until 1800 hours. All citizens coming to the city in order to trade in the markets must carry a passport or an identity card and leave the city limits before 2000 hours.

7.—To prohibit the unsanctioned organization and holding of gatherings, marches, demonstrations and the holding of meetings.

8.—In order to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the enterprises and institutions of the city, all working people are obliged to unconditionally report for work and fulfill their civic duties. Responsibility and control for observance of labor discipline is entrusted to the heads of ministries, administrations, enterprises, and institutions.

9.—Ispolkoms of rayon soviets of Yerevan city together with officials of internal affairs organs should organize the checking of passport regulations and for the period that the curfew is in force to additionally carry out raids to inspect basement and attic premises, country cottage areas, and, in cases where necessary, to detain and search suspicious persons.

10.—All local organs of state authority, state and public institutions, organizations and establishments are obligated to afford every form of cooperation to the military command in order to ensure public order and safety.

11.—Those guilty of insubordination to the orders and commands of military and local organs of authority, are liable to administrative and criminal responsibility in accordance with existing legislation.

12.—Control for the implementation of these measures is entrusted to the ispolkoms of the city and the military commandant.

These emergency measures, according to Lieutenant General Samsonov, are dictated by dire necessity and are aimed at the protection of the interests, rights, and dignity of Soviet citizens. We call on you, Samsonov says in conclusion, to remain calm, show self-restraint, mutual respect for each other, and the unconditional observance of the curfew conditions.

1,700 Armenians Airlifted Out

TA2411155788 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Officials in the southern Soviet Republic of Armenia say 1,700 Armenian women and children have been airlifted to safety following renewed communal clashes in the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan. They were airlifted from the cities of Kirovabad and Nakhichevan, where a state of emergency and curfews are in force. Jeremy Harris reports from Moscow:

[Begin Harris recording] A spokesman of the official Armenian news agency in the capital Yerevan said that a total of 1,700 Armenian women and children had been taken by helicopter from Nakhichevan and Kirovabad, the two areas at the center of the latest unrest. The spokesman said Armenian men had stayed behind to defend themselves. He characterized the violence earlier in the week as a massacre. The airlift is a striking reflection of the gravity of recent developments. According to official Azerbaijani figures, 3 soldiers were killed and more than 120 people were injured, Armenians and Azerbaijanis, when troops were sent in to try to quell intercommunal rioting. A state of emergency is in force in both areas. A night curfew and other security measures have now been extended to the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, where soldiers have been guarding the homes of the Armenian minority. The measures were imposed after what were described as hooliganism and violations of public order in the city. Big demonstrations and strikes were reported to be continuing in both Baku and Yerevan. More than 40 people have now been killed in 9 months of unrest, which has defied both threats and promises from the Kremlin and even attempts by Moscow to ignore it altogether. [end recording]

Refugees Flock to Armenia

LD2411162688 Hamburg DPA in German 1434 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—Hundreds of refugees are flocking from Azerbaijan to Armenia as a consequence of the anti-Armenian riots. A spokesman from the Armenian news agency ARMENPRESS in Yerevan stated in a telephone conversation with DPA today that 1,700 refugees from Korovabad and other Azerbaijani towns have arrived in the Armenian capital over the last 3 days.

In Azerbaijan, attacks increasingly were ocurring on "Armenian houses, villages, and families." Azerbaijanis were destroying trains belonging to the Armenian railways that go through the area of Nakhichevan, which is south of Armenia and belongs to Azerbaijan, the spokesman stated.

The demonstrations in the central square of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku were broadcast by the republic's television network and had not only an anti-Armenian but also an anti-Russian nature. "Very aggressive slogans" were chanted, such as "Death to the Armenians" and "Russians and Armenians out of Azerbaijan."

The situation was peaceful in Armenia. "We do not intend to let ourselves be provoked," the spokesman stated. In the morning, there was a mass rally in Yerevan, with an estimated 200,000 people, at which the reconvening of the Armenian Supreme Soviet was called for. The Armenian parliament interrupted its session after the riots in Azerbaijan became known. The ARMENPRESS representative said that a further demonstration was expected in Yerevan this evening.

USSR Marshal Appeals for Calm

LD2411202988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] [Announcer] Now we present a person to whom you don't need to explain what the losses of one's nearest and dearest, one's friends and comrades, mean , a person who has been through war—we hand over to Marshal of Aviation (Ivan Nikitovich Kozhedubov), three times hero of the Soviet Union:

[(Kozhedubov)] Brothers and sisters! I am appealing to you in great agitation. I have found out that blood is being shed: That is a misfortune, both for the relatives of those who have already lost their lives, and for people who truly want friendship. After all, friendship is a great force. We defeated the enemy, because our peoples were welded together by a great friendship. In our regiment we had both Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Azerbaijanis, Georgians and Armenians. I had a leader, a Georgian called (Vanokhaboniya). He died the death of the brave near (Valuyiki); his aircraft was rammed. And we endured, we lived through people's deaths.

But now, I just cannot understand it. You are brothers, you must stop your quarrels. They won't do any good. We Soviet people displayed our [word indistinct] character in combat against the enemies of the Fatherland. But why should there be blood in peacetime? Life is given to man once. I appeal to you to show prudence and not to give way to provocations and instigators, for whom our restructuring truly goes against the grain. Surely the nationalities issue cannot be solved with knives? I appeal to you, I appeal to you, brothers: Come to your senses and stop the bloodshed.

Yerevan Bodies Issue Appeal

NC2411141988 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Dear listeners: We draw your attention to an appeal by the Armenian SSR Communist Party Central Committee, the Armenian Supreme Soviet, and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

Dear comrades, recently the situation in the region became greatly exacerbated. Violence was carried out by irresponsible extremist elements on ethnic soil in specific areas, and there have been victims.

A special status has been instituted in Baku, Kirovabad, and Nakhichevan; three soldiers have been killed, while (?many) were wounded. Many measures have been taken to establish order and to ensure the residents' security with the intention to establish [word indistinct] order.

The situation has also been exacerbated in Armenia. Violence has broken out in various rayons. Party, soviet, and law-establishing bodies are all taking measures to ease the tension that can have grave consequences.

In order to establish order in the republic, supreme soviet and local soviet deputies as well as party and [words indistinct] have been (?deployed). [Words indistinct] in our republic.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, the Presidium of the republic's supreme soviet, and the Council of Ministers appeal to you not to [words indistinct] and to display (?self-control) and sagacity.

You already know that the 8th session of the 11th convocation of the Armenian SSR's Supreme Soviet met on 22 November to discuss problems that are of concern to our people today. However, the session unfortunately was unable to finish because of the tension. Bearing in mind their (?full) responsibility towaru the people's security, the deputies unanimously decided to postpone the session until public order is established. The session will continue its work once stability is achieved.

A number of rayon party conferences have also been postponed [words indistinct] public measures.

It is presently dictated that each and every one display toward the country and the people great responsibility and alertness, by realizing the fact that all kinds of acts (?in life, in work) [words indistinct] only (?harm) the situation in the republic, and that all (?words and deeds) [words indistinct] our people's ethnic interests.

We appeal to you, dear compatriots, because we trust the Armenian people's wisdom and rationality. Let no one doubt that the republic's leadership (?ever forgets) the people's [word indistinct] and its responsibility toward it. We are doing everything to ensure the residents' security, (?to establish public order), and to ensure that laws are respected.

It is presently the duty of each and every citizen of the republic to assist, with [word indistinct] and great (?consciousness), the party and soviet bodies in all this. The fate and good name of Armenia are in our hands. We believe in you, dear compatriots.

[Signed] The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, the presidium of the republic's supreme soviet, and the republic's Council of Ministers.

Nakhichevan Returning to Normal

LD2411185488 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1750 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Unscheduled newscast]

[Text] A report by AZERINFORM: The special situation in Nakhichevan is yielding significant results. According to the latest reports the situation in this town is gradually returning to normal, and public safety is being maintained. Details of the emergence of difficulties are being carefully followed. Those guilty will be brought to justice. In the meantime certain forces which want tension to rise are attempting to spread various rumors and lies among the republic's population.

For example, a lie is being spread that events in Kirovabad began after a little girl was allegedly run over and killed by [word indistinct]. AZERINFORM's correspondent telephoned Kamil Mamedov, republican deputy minister of internal affairs. The deputy minister stated that such an incident has not taken place and that it is a lie. (?Certain people) have gathered together, and others in some republican rayons, to commemorate the allegedly deceased poet Bakhtiyar Vahabzade—while the famous poet is healthy. As can be seen, forces which oppose restructuring are using all methods, and one must respond to them decisively, with restraint, and in accordance with reality.

PRAVDA on Worsening Situation

PM2511111788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In the Interests of Law and Order"]

[Text] The situation in the Azerbaijan and Armenian SSR's has worsened in the last few days, and there have been clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani nationals.

These events are seriously complicating normal public life and the functioning of industrial and transport enterprises, educational establishments, and public health facilites. They are also maintaining tension among the population, preventing people working and living calmly, and creating a threat to their safety. The incidents provoked by irresponsible nationalist elements are damaging the region's economy, disrupting its ties with the country's other areas, undermining the foundations of good-neighborliness between the fraternal peoples, and arousing justifiable indignation in citizens.

In light of all this and also with a view to preventing possible serious consequences, it has been deemed necessary to take the appropriate steps to ensure law and order and tranquillity. A curfew has been introduced in a number of areas.

Curfew in Baku, Other Cities

WA2411112088 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT 24 Nov 88

Moscow, Nov 24 (AFP)—A curfew has been declared in Baku, the capital of the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic, and in two other Azerbaijan cities, a local official said Thursday.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Armenians gathered for the second consecutive day in the Armenian capital Yerevan to protest the renewed ethnic violence and call on the local parliament to reconvene.

The 10 p.m.to 5 a.m. curfew, aimed at containing the ethnic unrest which has flared in Azerbaijan and the neighboring Armenian Republic in recent days, was announced late Wednesday on local television and radio by Suleyman Tatliev, the chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry said.

In addition to Baku, the curfew was to be enforced in Kirovabad and Nakhichevan where three interior ministry troops were killed and 126 other people injured on Tuesday in clashes between ethnic Azeris and Armenians.

The spokesman, Ismail Agaev, said that the curfew was declared following "acts of hooliganism" in several parts of the republic in recent days.

He added that an unspecified group of people had attempted to "humiliate" other people in Baku and had "tried to disrupt the functioning of transport and businesses" in the city.

Mr. Agaev's remarks appeared to be deliberately vague and it was not clear if any of the approximately 200,000 Armenians living in Baku had been injured in the violence.

"There is no information on deaths and injuries," Mr. Agaev said.

Mr. Agaev said that the situation in Baku was calm early Thursday, but sources in Azerbaijan predicted Wednesday that there could be further violence in the republic.

Kirovabad is in northern Azerbaijan, while Nakhichevan is the capital of an autonomous republic bordering Turkey and Iran which is controlled by Azerbaijan but separated from it by the Armenian Republic.

In Yerevan, 200,000 to 300,000 people demanding that the parliament reconvene a session which was broken off suddenly on Tuesday, gathered in front of the central committee building.

A journalist with Armenia's official news agency ARMENPRESS told AFP by telephone that interior ministry troops had not yet been deployed in Yerevan.

The demonstrators have demanded that the parliament, which is due to debate proposed amendments to the Soviet Constitution along with plans for economic development in Nagorno-Karabakh, be reconvened immediately and sources close to the Karabakh committee said that the central committee had promised a response by Thursday evening.

The Karabakh committee, named after the mostly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh located in and controlled by Azerbaijan, has organized the protests in Armenia since the start of the unrest last February.

The enclave has been at the center of the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan and Armenia has persisted in its demand—denied in July by the Kremlin—that Nagorno-Karabakh be reincorporated into Armenia.

The renewed surge of violence and unrest in the two southern republics is the latest in a series of demonstrations and inter-ethnic clashes which began last February when 32 people—including 26 Armenians—were killed in rioting in the Azerbaijan city of Sumgait.

Curfew, 'Mass Strike' in Yerevan

AU2511103088 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow, Nov 25 (AFP)—Armenians staged a mass protest strike in their capital Yerevan on Friday [25 November] in protest at the imposition of a curfew, while tanks took up position in central districts, official Armenian sources said.

Meanwhile, Muslim Azeris returned to the streets of Baku, the Azerbaijan capital, in a fresh demonstration as Soviet tanks and troops remained on patrol in several regions of that republic, a local official there said.

An official from the Armenian Foreign Ministry in Yerevan, contacted by telephone, told AFP that rallies had been banned in the city as of Friday [25 November]. The curfew runs from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and was announced by the authorities on Thursday.

The decision to impose a curfew on the Armenian capital was taken due to "threats" to the population caused by "unauthorized meetings, demonstrations and the disruption of government institutions," according to a government statement.

Armenian nationalists seeking the transfer of the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh had staged daily mass rallies attended by hundreds of thousands of people in the last few days.

The ministry official said public transport was not running, and workers stayed away from work at factories and businesses. But schools were open, as were shops, he said.

Soviet Interior Ministry troops, backed by the tanks, had moved into the city centre, he said.

In Baku, a spokesman for the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry said in a telephone interview that "many" people gathered at Lenin Square and in several other areas of the city and added that work at a number of businesses in Baku had come to a standstill.

The spokesman added that he had no information on the situation in the northern Azerbaijan city of Kirovabad where on Thursday mobs of protesters went on a rampage, killing several people.

A local government official reached by telephone in Kirovabad said "we don't give information—we do not talk to anybody" before hanging up.

On Tuesday, demonstrators in Kirovabad killed three soldiers and injured 126 people in ethnic riots connected with the continuing territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh began in February, when Armenians began protests calling for the return of the territory—a mostly Armenian enclave located within the borders of Azerbaijan and governed from Baku.

Armenian sources said Thursday that hundreds of Armenian women and children living in Azerbaijan were being evacuated troops to Armenia. [sentence as received]

Azerbaijanis said that the fresh outburst of unrest in the two republics was sparked by an Armenian plan to send new settlers to Nagorno-Karabakh, in a move to bolster the Armenian majority there.

The Kremlin in July flatly rejected Armenia's demand for the return of the territory, which Stalin allocated to Azerbaijan.

Proposals to Armenian Supreme Soviet

NC2411084488 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Report on meeting in Baku's Lenin Square on 22 November 1988 by "commentators" Mayile Murtkhanova and Valid Kemaniyev]

[Text] [Kemaniyev] This is Baku's Lenin Square on 22 November. The workers of Azerbaijan continue to hold meetings.

[Muratkhanova] Dear listeners, it is common knowledge that great emotional stress prevails in our republic and among our people as a result of the incidents in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. This emotional stress has been expressed by the meetings' participants once again.

[Kemaniyev] The main points of the outbursts in the meetings are as follows: The Azerbaijan SSR's (?borders), which have been determined by the Constitution, must be maintained, Azerbaijan's state authority is untouchable, illegal work carried out in the NKAO as a result of provocations by a group of extremists must be halted, and the NKAO must remain under the jurisdiction of the republic's government.

[Muratkhanova] During their demonstrations and meetings, the people of Azerbaijan have confirmed the sincerity of their great ideal and objective once again.

[Kemaniyev] The following are the only aims behind their objective: Azerbaijan SSR's territorial integrity, peace within Azerbaijan SSR territory, an industrious business life, a creative state of affairs, and an economic and cultural life which complies with contemporary demands. However, as has been observed, the NKAO incidents have obstructed the creation of such conditions in the republic.

[Muratkhanova] Also, the emotional feelings of the participants in the demonstrations and meetings are very natural. The tense state of affairs, which prevailed during the past 10 months, has created backwardness in the economic and moral fields. However, the people of Azerbaijan cannot be held responsible at all for this backwardness, emotional stress, and tension.

[Kemaniyev] The point is that removing economic backwardness after a certain period of time is possible. However, who will pay for the moral damage? Who will account for the moral damage? Speakers (?who addressed the meetings) have focused particular attention on this point, because dozens of long years are required to redeem the damage that has been caused in the moral field.

[Muratkhanova] The meeting's participants were very justified in demanding that the individuals who create discord between the two peoples and cause such a degree of moral damage, [words indistinct] and account for what they do in as short a time as possible.

[Kemaniyev] The meeting was opened by poet Sabit Rustam-Khanly.

[Begin Rustam-Khanly recording] Dear brothers and sisters, this is now the 6th day that [words indistinct], elderly people, and even students have gathered in Baku's main square to press for their rights. What has made us all feel uneasy is the foreign hands which are stretched out to the NKAO. [passage indistinct] Construction work was initiated in various parts of the NKAO without authorization by the Azerbaijan Government and against our will. This construction work was against our interests. We who have gathered in this square demand, for the last time, that all construction work be halted.

We must all be well aware of the fact that the Armenian nationalists are trying to use the policy of openness, which has been recently initiated in our country, and democracy in a very adverse way. Consequently, this state of affairs has created the NKAO incidents. The NKAO has been a part of Azerbaijan throughout history.

Furthermore, it has been the Azerbaijanis who have been superior [ustunluk] throughout history and now in the territory which has been designated the Armenian SSR. Azerbaijanis are living on that land.

An Armenian province was set up in accordance with the order of [name indistinct] in the homeland, and Armenians came to live there from various parts of the world and [words indistinct]. It has now been designated the Armenian SSR. Never mind, we have given them a place to live from our own land. We have creaed an opportunity for the (?coexistence) of two nationalities. But this does not mean that they can now covet our legitimate lands. In view of this, we want all the [word indistinct] to (?understand) that we are pursuing a just cause. We are struggling for our own land. Not even a single inch of Azerbaijan's territory can be given away. [applause]

I will now ask Nevzat Karayev, a representative of the heroic workers of Baku and a worker at the [name indistinct] factory, to address the meeting. [end recording]

[Karayev recording indistinct]

[Muratkhanova] It is common knowledge that practical proposals are being put forward to normalize the situation. Popular artist Bakhtiyar Vahab-Zade has put forward a similar proposal:

[Begin Vahab-Zade recording] Dear comrades, concrete work has to be carried out instead of lengthy discussions. I have put forward a concrete proposal in writing and (?I draw your attention to it):

To the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Copy to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Signed by the participants of the meeting of the workers of Baku:

Feeling seriously disturbed by the gradual worsening of the situation in the NKAO, particularly by the serious and difficult situation of the Azerbaijani people in the Armenian SSR, we make the following appeal to the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet:

The question of establishing an autonomous oblast composed of the rayons where Azerbaijani people are concentrated in the Armenian SSR should be considered. This will safeguard the national interests of the Azerbaijanis in the Armenian SSR, provide security for them, and contribute toward the effort made to meet their social, economic, and moral demands. We are convinced that this proposal complies with the constitutional rights and interests of the Azerbaijani population in the Armenian SSR. Furthermore, it will be compatible with Lenin's nationalities policy and with the concept of the people's friendship.

We also appeal to the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: If our justified appeal is not upheld, then the question of whether the abolition of the autonomous oblast within the framework of Azerbaijan SSR would be in ordr should be considered.

We are convinced that our appeal will be accepted. [end recording]

[Kemaniyev] Dear listeners, I contacted (?Vahid) Dzhafarov, first secretary of the Shusha Raykom, by telephone today. I will now present the interview. However, I am sorry that reception is poor.

Mr Dzhafarov, one of the problems which have made the participants of the meetings in Baku, and, in fact, all the republic's workers, feel uneasy, is the question of Tophana. I would like to ask about the situation in the Tophana forest region.

[Begin recording] [Passage indistinct of Dzhafarov speaking]

[Kemaniyev] What is the general situation in the rayon?

[Dzhafarov] The present situation in the rayon is normal. The uneasiness that the people have felt decreased relatively after the construction work in Tophana was halted. However, the people continue to feel tense as a result of the continuing (?demonstrations) in Stepanakert and the breaching of laws in the other rayons of the NKAO. [passage indistinct]

[Kemaniyev] Thank you for the interview. [end recording]

100,000 Protest in Baku 24 Nov

LD2411162188 Hamburg DPA in German 1339 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—A so-called special situation has been declared in the towns of Baku and Kirovabad, as well as in the autonomous region of Nakhichevan, because of the continuing mass demonstrations in the Soviet Caucasian Republic of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, more than 100,000 people once again gathered for protest demonstrations in Baku today. The spokesman told DPA in a telephone conversation that among other things, the demonstrators were calling for the removal of the autonomous status of Nagorno- Karabakh because the Armenian leadership of the disputed areas was working to divide the two peoples. [passage omitted]

'Mass Rallies' Continue

PM2411195588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 3

["Own information" report: "Rallies, Rallies, Rallies..."]

[Text] Our own correspondents report from Baku and Yerevan: Mass rallies are continuing in the capitals of both republics. In Baku the rallies were prompted by the news that in the resort hamlet of Topkhan (Nagorno-Karabakh) a cooperative began constructing a shop at an aluminum plant without the knowledge of Azerbaijan's republican organs. Construction has been stopped, but, by contrast, rumors are multiplying: Supposedly an entire plant and town are being constructed. Various rumors are being spread that the upcoming USSR Supreme Soviet session will "resolve the question" of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The republican and central mass news media are only intensifying the fantasies by remaining silent. Matters reached the point of riots [besporyadki] in Nakhichevan and Kirovabad, and a curfew has been introduced there. Preventive measures have also been taken in Baku.

In Yerevan the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet broke off its session in view of the situation. Rallies and meetings are again being held at enterprises. An almost continuous rally is also under way in Theater Square.

'Deplorable Situation' Worsening

NC2311172988 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 23 Nov 88

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] During these difficult days, and at a time when meetings are being held to voice support for the speedy settlement of delayed problems, certain individuals are trying to use the new conditions to significantly worsen the deplorable situation in the republic.

Certain individuals are using state-owned and private vehicles in a way which seriously disrupts (?traffic) rules. They are driving at very high speeds on (?city roads and in the suburbs), [words indistinct], threatening the safety of the people, and disrupting (?work) and rest time. [passage indistinct]

Azerbaijan Sovereignty Violated

NC2311174588 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 23 Nov 88

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] It is the 6th day now that workers, intellectuals, students, and [word indistinct] have been gathering in the main square in the republic's capital to express their objection to the incidents in Nagorno-Karabakh and the developments which conflict with the national policy of the party and government and with our sacred laws, clearly violate the Azerbaijan SSR's sovereignty, and tend to degrade our national efficiency.

The newspapers publish detailed information on the meeting held in Lenin Square yesterday. A number of petitions and proposals were put forward during the meeting. Gasan Gasanov, secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the meeting on the work carried out by the Central Committee, including the measures it has taken to carry out the tasks which are related to the responsible will and justified demands of the people.

Agdam Raykom Official 'Relieved'

NC2311195088 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 23 Nov 88

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] Newspapers report that the plenum held by the Agdam Raykom discussed the question of organization. The plenum relieved Sadyk (?Kutruzayev) of his responsibilities as first secretary of the Agdam raykom on the grounds that he has been appointed to another post.

Obkom Chiefs Replaced

LD2511125988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] At today's plenum of the Chimkent Obkom, an organizational question was examined.

The plenum relieved Comrade Tyulebekov of his duties as first secretary in connection with his transfer to another job.

Comrade (Temirbayev), who worked as chairman of the East Kazakhstan Oblispolkom, was elected first secretary of the Chimkent Obkom.

A plenum of the Taldy-Kurgan Obkom has taken place. Comrade Anufriyev has been relieved of his duties as first secretary of the obkom in connection with his transfer to another job.

Comrade (Zhigulin), who worked as first deputy chairman of the Taldy-Kurgan Oblispolkom and as chairman of the oblast's agroindustrial committee, was elected first secretary of the Taldy-Kurgan Obkom.

Krunk Leader on NKAO

PM2311150688 Paris LE MONDE in French 23 Nov 88 p 6

[Bernard Guetta dispatch: "A Compromise Is Possible, According to a Leader of the Nagorno-Karabakh Movement"]

[Text] Moscow—After the Baltic republics last week, it is now Georgia and Azerbaijan, the Caucasian republics, which have assumed the baton of national unrest.

For instance, there is a risk of Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, being the scene of a large demonstration on Wednesday, 23 November, against the proposed amendments to the Soviet Constitution which will be examined that day by that republic's supreme soviet. Like the Baltic republics, the Georgians think that these amendments tend to limit the union republics' autonomy on the pretext of defining the powers of the new republican parliament which will be set up next spring.

This interpretation is rejected by the central government, which seems prepared to amend the draft amendments to remove any trace of ambiguity.

However, 100,000 people took to the streets of Tbilisi on 12 November to express their discontent, and all indications are that the explanations given by Moscow were not sufficient to calm people down. In this republic, which, like the Baltic republics, looks back with nostalgia to the days when it was independent, the weekend was a series of demonstrations—on Saturday [19 November] in Kutaisi, Georgia's second city, and on Sunday morning and afternoon in Batumi, capital of the Autonomous Republic of Adzharia, where a Christian minority wants to extricate themselves from the control of the Muslim majority.

Although this mobilization is serious, it is less impressive than the meeting which began in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, on Saturday. The number of demonstrators rose from 30,000 people at the beginning to 100,000 by Monday evening, and they even refused to leave the big Lenin Square at night. What is their aim? To secure a guarantee that the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, contrary to the wishes of its Armenian majority, will not be withdrawn from their republic, of which it has been part since 1923. Theoretically, this was the decision made by the USSR Supreme Soviet on 18 July, but a special parliamentary mission was set up at the same time to make "new proposals."

Since then, the Armenian mobilization has been constant both in Nagorno- Karabakh and in Armenia; the gulf between the two peoples (one Christian, the other Muslim) has widened, and the Azerbaijanis are beginning to fear that the Armenians' obstinacy will pay off.

The sudden strength of their reaction seems to support the optimism expressed in an exclusive interview to LE MONDE by one of the main leaders of the Krunk—the movement which has been organizing the uprising in Nagorno- Karabakh for 10 months.

After lengthy negotiations at the Central Committee meeting, and after asking us not to mention his name, this young engineer, who is also a local party leadership member, said he is certain that a compromise will eventually be reached between the Armenians and Moscow. "I think," he said, "that the Politburo has reached the conclusion that the problem must be solved. We can see a change in the way in which the Central Committee is now tackling things."

Chain Reaction

"At first," he continued, "we were systematically told that there are many other situations similar to ours in the USSR and that giving us satisfaction would cause a chain reaction. Then, faced with the continuation of our movement and the support it has in Armenia, they began to realize that this was an untenable position, and we told them: Solve the problem! At least say what course should be taken, because that is what should make the difference between restructuring and the period of stagnation (Brezhnevism—LE MONDE editor's note).

"We were then told that the interdependence of our economy and the Azerbaijani economy was such that we would be rendered bankrupt by separation. We then pointed out to them that our trade with Azerbaijan only accounts for between 8 and 10 percent of our total trade and that a change in administrative status does not prevent the continuation of economic relations." "I think," he added, "that we convinced them that things could not remain as they are."

Does this mean that he is optimistic about this change of status? The reply was "yes." "First," he said, "I simply see no other way of diverting our movement, other than tanks and bloodshed, which would spell the end of restructuring, because it would then be necessary to crush Armenia, which would simply demand to leave the Soviet Union.

"Second, we are working with the members of the commissions which the Supreme Soviet has sent us, and we can see that they understand. The Sumgait events took place (the anti-Armenian pogrom that took place last February in that Azerbaijani city—LE MONDE editor's note) and it is impossible to seat persecutors and victims at the same table. Third, I know that these commissions are coming to our region with the idea of finding a compromise.

"Moreover," he added, "the right to self-determination exists in our Constitution; the Helsinki Accords guarantee it, and if the USSR is to be preserved, there must be real union, because if there is no 'new thinking' in relations among the Soviet nations, then the USSR will quite simply not survive."

So, what compromise could be envisaged? Attaching Nagornyy-Karabakh not to Armenia but to the Russian Federation or another republic in that federation, or even directly to the central government, he replied. In the framework of this compromise, the Nagornyy-Karabakh Armenians are advocating a comprehensive settlement on the basis of reciprocity on the territorial disputes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians.

"If we achieved that," our interlocutor said with an enthusiasm he clearly hopes to convey to the Kremlin, "the whole world would applaud the USSR, the whole propaganda machine could be set in motion to say: 'You see, under socialism, national problems can be solved harmoniously.'"

That is fine, but what the Azerbaijanis see is that they are not prepared to sacrifice Nagornyy-Karabakh on the altar of socialism. On Monday [21 November], people in

Baku did not yet know that the Soviet Union's Supreme Court had just passed the death sentence on one of the perpetrators of the Sumgait pogroms.

Citizens Concerned Over Tension

LD2411022888 Moscow TASS in English 1933 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—By TASS correspondents:

In conditions of perestroyka launched in the country, Soviet people raise most acutely questions of the development of inter-ethnic relations. They cannot remain indifferent to what takes place now in the Soviet Baltic republics, in Azerbaijan, Armenia. Letters are addressed to editorial boards, telephone calls are made. They express concern over the state of things in our common home.

Noting in a coversation with a TASS correspondent the growth of social activity of Soviet people, Mikhail Kilchichakov, merited worker of arts of the Russian Federation, said that "emotions, national conceit and parochial ambitions at times eclipse the main things which should be manifested now—reasonableness, wisdom, respect and trust for each other, care for the well-being of our multi-ethnic state."

"A manifestation of national egoism and parochialism"—this is how amendments to articles of the Constitution of Estonia, adopted at a session of the Supreme Soviet of that Baltic republic were assessed by Lev Bodyul, a school teacher from Moldavia. "Estonia's exclusive property of land, minerals, timber and other natural resources, as well as the main means of production and other property situated on Estonia's territory is at variance with the Constitution of the USSR. All this is the common property of the Soviet people. I view what takes place in Estonia now, the demands made by unofficial organisations of Lithuania and Latvia as an attempt to split unity of our country," Bodyul said.

Nikolay Garibov, a mining engineer from the west Siberian amalgamation "Urengoygazdobycha," is of the opinion that perestroyka, including the reform of the political system, can only be implemented on the basis of the consolidation of the forces of entire society, friendly mutual assistance. "We have started breathing easier for the first time over many years. We have received an opportunity to speak openly and directly about the things that worry us. But democracy and glasnost does not mean anarchy. If there are problems, they can be discussed. One can exert efforts to convince others of one's rightness. But this should not be done by means of strikes that affect incomes of thousands of compatriots, by calls to fist-fighting. I don't think I shall risk earning the reputation of an adversary of perestroyka if I say that these are occasions for using authority, as is stipulated by law," he said.

CPSU Politburo Discusses Upcoming Plenum

LD2411213388 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Nov 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; announcer-read report on a 24 November CPSU Central Committee Politburo session]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Politburo today discussed questions connected with the forthcoming CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the 12th USSR Supreme Soviet session. In line with the directives of the 19th all-union party conference on the reorganization and reduction of the CPSU Central Committee apparatus, proposals on the new structure of the Central Committee departments and the main areas of their activity were considered. It was stressed that the new CPSU Central Committee departments will change substantially their style of working, will renounce narrow, departmental approaches to and a usurpation of the role of economic bodies, will focus on the key problems of socioeconomic policy and ideological activity, will make a profound study of the life of society, and will improve work with cadres.

It was noted that the closing stages of the nation-wide discussion of the draft laws on changes to the Constitution and on elections of USSR people's deputies testified that there was broad public interest in these problems. Proposals received from working people make it possible to make significant improvements to the draft laws, to reflect public opinion in them more fully, and to submit for the consideration of the USSR Supreme Soviet very important documents ensuring the implementation of the first steps of the political reform charted by the 19th party conference.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo examined the results of the official friendly visit paid by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to India. It was stated that the constructive high-level dialogue lent a new quality and fresh dynamism to the cooperation between the Soviet Union and India, and contributed in no small measure to positive changes in Asian-Pacific and world affairs. The Soviet-Indian high-level statement, adopted by way of development of the 1986 Delhi Declaration, fixes the coordinates of further practical actions along the road of building a world free of nuclear weapons and violence, backed by a reliable system of comprehensive global security.

Soviet-Indian bilateral links in the spheres of trade, the economy, science, and technology are being filled with a fundamentally new content. Major additional groundwork for this has been created as a result of the signing of a number of inter-governmental agreements during the meeting of the leaders of the two countries. It was stressed that the key to enhancing the effectiveness of, and mutual advantage in, trade and economic cooperation with India lays in the successful reorganization of its mechanism and the assimilation of new forms, above all industrial coproduction. The great importance of the growth of Soviet-Indian cultural exchanges, and also contacts between the Soviet Union and India via friendship societies, professional and creative unions, and women's, youth, sports, and other organizations, was noted.

The results of the working visits paid by Comrade Yakovlev to Hungary and Czechoslovakia were discussed. The programs of ideological cooperation between the fraternal parties, signed in Budapest and Prague, create the conditions for developing exchanges of experience, joint theoretical research work, contacts among the intelligentsia and young people, and of mutual cultural enrichment. The importance of the comradely conversations held with the leaders of the MSZMP and the CPCZ for attaining a deeper joint understanding of the tasks and problems of the renewal of socialism, the place and role of the Communist and workers' parties in this process, and the interrelation between the fundamental transformations that have started in the socialist countries and the perfection of the their economic, political, and ideological cooperation, was stressed.

A report by Comrade Yazov on an official friendly visit to Yugoslavia was heard. It was noted with satisfaction that in the course of meetings between Comrade Yazov and the SFRY leadership, a joint desire for the further development of friendly relations and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia was confirmed.

A report on the results of Comrade Baklanov's working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan and his meetings with President Najibullah and Prime Minister Sharq was heard. In accordance with accords reached, instructions have been issued on specific questions concerning the development of Soviet-Afghan cooperation.

Popular Movements Said To Cause 'Anxiety'

PM2311125088 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Nov 88 p 3

[Aleksey Morgun article under the rubric "A Journalist's Notes": "Before and After the Rallies"]

[Text] I am familiar at first hand with life in the Baltic republics. I lived in Vilnius for nearly 20 years, traveled the republic from end to end as SELSKAYA ZHIZN's own correspondent, and visited Latvia and Estonia several times. Friends are usually acquired in youth. So it is not surprising that there are still people living in Vilnius who are dear and close to me—in that city whose very name to this day kindles in my heart a feeling similar to the memory of first love.

True, in recent times a note of concern has been present more and more frequently in telephone conversations with my friends and acquaintances: The situation in the Baltic republics is becoming tense. Rallies, pickets, appeals from various informal associations... All this was seen as a novelty and greeted with general enthusiasm only in the first weeks and months. Now another question crops up more and more often: When will we really get down to the practical tasks of restructuring? All this could be regarded as the price of the renewal process, but this is what is worrying: The demarcation between informal groups is not based solely on the principle of political and social activeness. People are divided more and more often by something that for decades has not been regarded as a serious cause for concern: nationality. And this is cause for anxiety.

I can imagine the difficulties facing a future historian trying to interpret from local press materials the course of the formation of the various social movements in support of restructuring in the Baltic republics. First he will note with satisfaction that the declarations of the movements (even those operating within the same republic) have much in common: plenty of restructuring jargon, calls for democratization and cooperation in the name of the renewal of society, the formulation of noble and highly significant objectives. Then comes perplexity: Why, for all this apparent similarity of interests and platforms, are the movements quite unable to reach agreement, and how can you explain the fact that the formation of the Interfronts in Latvia and Estonia and the "Yedinstvo" movement in Lithuania was prompted by the dissatisfaction of many citizens of the republic with the practical activity of the People's Fronts? Why is there in Estonia, in opposition to the People's Front, the Unifed Council of Production Collectives—an organization representing a significant proportion of the republic's working class?

A great many questions have certainly accumulated. And local press publications help us to form clear opinions on many of them.

Take, for instance, the reportage "On Tuesday" (10 November 1988) in the youth newspaper PADOMYU YAUNATNE, organ of the Latvian Komsomol Central Committee. It is devoted to the Riga coordination meeting of representatives of the People's Fronts of Latvia and Estonia and the Lithuanian Movement for Restructuring, "Sajudis." The agenda...

But what was discussed at the meeting, and how, can best be judged from extracts from the reportage:

"The aforementioned drafts (this refers to the draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution and the draft Law on the Elections of People's Deputies of the USSR that have been submitted for nationwide discussion—A.M.) are a revision of the CPSU's new course, even open counterrevolution—a step back toward the period of stagnation... In comparison with the present draft, the Stalinist Constitution that existed at one time looks like the ultimate in democracy... We should not permit the discussion of this antidemocratic Constitution in the Supreme Soviet."

One can probably refrain from all commentary, allowing the reader to decide for himself what is merely intoxication with your own ringing (or rather, deafening) phrase, and what is the truth. Ultimately, now that we have learned to utter without stumbling a phrase that was at one time hard to pronounce—pluralism of opinions—everyone has the right to his own view. Even if it is an extreme, unconstructive opinion that basically leads to an impasse. The problem lies elsewhere: in the fact that people try to represent this extreme view as a position shared not merely by members of the movements, but by the **peoples**.

In order to demonstrate this unity clearly, methods are used that are not very reminiscent of democracy. The Latvian People's Front Duma, for instance, instructed its support groups: Meet (once again I quote the report "On Tuesday"—A.M.) "with specific USSR Supreme Soviet deputies in their electoral okrugs and tell them your views on the two drafts. Let us remember that voters have the right... to recall a deputy in a comparatively short space of time."

So that is an unequivocal warning—or a threat, perhaps?—to those deputies who suffer from "dissidence."

During the days of discussion of the drafts, in the streets of settlements in the three republics, support groups actively set about collecting signatures for a protest petition against the draft laws. In the newspaper SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA (13 November 1988) the teacher Yu. Vetra described fairly accurately the methods to which the Latvian People's Front support groups resorted.

"At Riga station some people were stopping people as they got off the train and persistently suggesting that they sign the demand. Later I saw a similar picture near one of Riga's schools, where they were collecting signatures from children no older than 12 or 13. Of course, if you use this method you can easily 'prove' that the constitution displeases 'not a mere handful of intellectuals, but the people.' First we protest at Olayne station, then at Riga station, during the day we add our signature at our place of residence, in the lunch break we sign up in the store, the hairdresser's, the post office... It is noteworthy that the 'protest' lists that I have seen do not indicate people's place of work. I think if all these signatures were run through a computer, the real number would be reduced considerably."

The justice of these observations was largely confirmed by a telephone call from an acquaintance of mine living in Vilnius. The comrade was slightly confused and upset: He has no complaints or objections to the draft laws in principle, but by an irony of fate he was forced to "protest" in writing twice:

"The first time was when I was in hospital," he said. "The doctor treating me, coming into the ward with a list and looking penetratingly at the patients, asked: 'Has anyone forgotten to sign up?' I thought: Health is expensive. And I signed. The second time it happened outside a store. I was asked: 'Do you want us always to have meat in the stores?' Naturally, I nodded. 'Sign, then.' What else could I do?"

Under such pressure, it is indeed easy to become confused. Not only for an ordinary mortal, but even for a deputy. Although nevertheless errors by deputies cost society more. The recent decisions of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet session which are the subject of so much talk in the press at the moment are unfortunately the kind of decisions that distract us from a businesslike, if heated, discussion of the draft laws (in the last analysis their nationwide discussion was organized precisely in order to formulate a common view of every provision and every article) and create an impasse.

I want to be understood correctly. I am far from wanting to paint the activity of the movements in support of restructuring purely in black. On the contrary, I am convinced that the formation of the People's Fronts in Latvia and Estonia and "Sajudis" in Lithuania made it possible decisively to accelerate democratic processes in the republics. I will not be mistaken if I say that with their first practical steps the emergent movements not only demostrated their own viability, but also emphasized the isolation of certain—by now mostly former—party and state leaders of the repbulics from the realities of our life. Their participation in formulating a promising and highly attractive model of republican economic accountability is undoubtedly to the credit of the People's Fronts and "Sajudis."

The movement's merits are obvious, but all the same they are no reason not to speak out about its mistakes. It would hardly be right for us to expect political maturity from social movements whose "age" is less than a year. The excessively wide range of political orientations of those who support the movement also plays a part. And although the nucleus is made up of people who want restructuring to succeed, it should not be forgotten that the Lithuanian Freedom League, with its maniacal anti-Sovietism, is also closely aligned with "Sajudis," for instance. In BYULLETEN SYEZDA ["Congress Bulletin"] (23 October 1988) you can read these revelations from A. Terlyatskas, a member of the league:

"The adepts of colonialism are accustomed to the idea that 'small' peoples cannot move a single step without 'friendly' assistance. Perhaps it is time we showed 'understanding' and ceased to be a burden on our benefactors from Moscow."

On reading this issue of the bulletin, I somehow failed to notice any refutation of this extremist view. True, people will object that during the congress itself the speaker from the league was called to order. But how can one forget that before he was "silenced," the speech of the league's representative was repeatedly interrupted by applause from the auditorium?

So what is this—pluralism? Then how are we to understand the extremely sensitive reaction of the leaders of the People's Fronts and "Sajudis" to any critical comment on them in the press? Or is diversity of views permitted only within movements, while they would like to impose an unequivocal taboo on critical views from outside? Is this not rather like a one-way street? And is it not all too far removed from the principles of genuine democracy that the movements' leaders are so fond of referring to?

Take the following instance. I learned from an interview that Ya.Ya. Vagris, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, gave to the newspapers TSINYA and SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA that, as it transpires, the Latvian People's Front congress adopted a resolution censuring the newspaper SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA and demanding the dismissal of its editor. What for?

After carefully studying the items in the newspaper, I came to this conclusion: The editorial office publishes different views of the course of restructuring (its writers include both Latvian People's Front activists and their opponents from other social formations) and allows itself to express its own position on the most urgent and topical issues in editorial commentaries. This pluralism, judging by the congress resolution, is not at all to the liking of the Latvian People's Front. Its leaders apparently seriously want a monopoly of criticism. In today's conditions this demand is hardly feasible. Especially since the interviewing newspapers, it seems to me, are now basically the Latvian People's Front's only opponents among the mass media. Let me cite the testimony of Ya. Dzenitis, Latvian SSR prosecutor, in PRAVDA:

"The mass media in the republic, with the exception of the newspapers TSINYA and SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA, have virtually escaped from party control and influence and have become the patrimony of their editors or groups of individuals."

The party influence of the press and the work of republican Communist Party Central Committees to consolidate restructuring forces are subjects for a special discussion. And although party organizations are substantially renewing the style and methods of their work among the masses, there is still a long way to go before this work can be assessed as satisfactory. Many Communists still show only a feeble sense of responsibility for the future of restructuring and display a desire to "flirt" with the movement even when views are expressed that are far removed from the views proper to Communists.

I admit that I felt well and truly perplexed when I read in MOLODEZH ESTONII (21 September 1988) a discussion between R. Veydemann, member of the Estonian People's Front executive center, and V. Yushkin, chief of a sector at the republic Communist Party Central Committee. They were talking about Russian cultural autonomy in Estonia. However, the speakers went far beyond the framework of this topic. And judging from readers' letters to the republican newspapers, their united platform was not to everyone's liking. But let me quote:

R. Veydemann: "I would like Russians in Estonia... to seek to rally on a national basis... I very much want the Russians here to feel like a national group living in isolation from its origins."

V. Yushkin: "There has been enough explaining and ruminating on ethnic relations... We do not need education, we do not need explanations! What we need is to set up a community—a spiritual community of Russians living among Estonians... We need to talk about our Russian problems... We Russians must feel that we are united in Estonia not so much by citizenship, not so much by our place of residence or place of work, as by a sense of nationality and a common destiny."

I was about to comment on this discussion, but then I decided that this had already been done in the best possible way by V. Lebedev, an engineer from Narva, in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA:

"The last line completing the picture and making it absolutely recognizable to me is the proposal to publish their own Russian newspaper under the friendly title RUSSKIY GOLOS [RUSSIAN VOICE] or RUSSKIY PATRIOT [RUSSIAN PATRIOT]. A picture comes to life that is familar from the movies, a picture of the life of Russian emigres somewhere in Paris or Istanbul: the 'Troika' restaurant, a choir made up of gloomy individuals clad in peasant blouses, and the song 'Evening Bells.'"

After V. Yushkin's appeal it seems rather difficult to go back to the "rudiments" of the problem that, much to our own surprise, has become very acute and topical: ethnic relations. And here we must once again remember how fragile, subtle, and delicate people's national feelings are. Even now, in the 72d year of Soviet power, we are once again forced to unravel many neglected knots of nationality problems.

The initiative and energy of people who believe in the idea of renewal gave birth to social associations in support of restructuring which were previously unknown in our experience. After observing the fact of their appearance in the world, we promptly began to look indulgently at every step taken by the new baby. And yet not everything is going smoothly in this new cause: The movements' programs do not deal sufficently clearly and distinctly with matters relating to improvements in ethnic relations, and this leads, as experience shows, to the emergence of different social organizations in confrontation with them.

The working class and peasantry are poorly represented in them, which may provide food for thought: Why do the objectives proclaimed by the People's Fronts and "Sajudis" and the means of attaining them look unconvincing to them? Many people are also irritated by the fussiness with which they try to implement projects that have sometimes been prepared too hastily. In short, the movements still have plenty of problems. But they all can be solved as long as the main point is not forgotten: We are not building a communal apartment with inhabitants who do not get along, but rather our big, common home.

Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Deputies Attacked

LD2511154188 Vilnius in English to North America 2300 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Vilnius City Procurator Donatas Sodeika has released information that a case was filed today with the city's procurator's office and that investigation is underway to find whether action can be brought over the incidents connected with the recent session of Lithuanian Supreme Soviet.

As is known, on Friday [18 November] night, after the close of the 2-day session, a group of persons gathered outside the supreme soviet attacked the deputies, insulting their honor and dignity as representatives of state power. The same evaluation of the incident is also given in the earlier issue of the government statement. Thus, the Vilnius procurator's office has initiated criminal proceedings over a crime qualified as intentional hooliganism.

As we have already reported, pending the 2 days of the session there were picketers outside the supreme soviet building in support of the session's topical agenda. However, when sone of the session's decisions did not satisfy part of the picketers, their actions transgresed the bounds of decent behavior in a public place.

The second incident mentioned in the procurator's statement took place on Monday and had been planned in advance. On the initiative of the same Council of the Lithuanian Reform Movement, Sayudis, and as a protest motion against the session's decisions, at noon picketers halted the traffic for 10 minutes at some crossroads in the center of the city. This action is being investigated by the procurator's office in order to find out whether there are grounds to initiate criminal proceedings over a crime qualified as gross violation of public order by group action. There is no information as yet whether the procurator's office has initiated proceedings against concrete persons in connection with the incidents.

As regards the first incident, it is likely to have been spontaneous, while the traffic picketing was staged by the same council of Sayudis. The Lithuanian public was informed about those actions of the Vilnius city procurator's office regarding the two incidents by Liudvikas Sabutis, procurator of Lithuania, who spoke on television tonight. He said, in addition, that a group of ten MP's have applied to Lithuania's procurator's office asking to take measures to prevent the repetition of actions insulting the deputies' dignity and to punish the organizers of the incident. Lithuania's Procurator Liudvikas Sabutis also mentioned facts from some localities of Lithuania concerning actions of citizens which violate the status of MP's, thus interfering with the discharge of their function. Such actions are also punishable.

Lithuanian Popular Front President on 'Goal'

LD2211103188 Budapest MTI in English 0924 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Budapest, November 22 (MTI)—'Our goal is to restore the constitutional sovereignty of the Lithuanian Republic within the federation of free states of equal rights', said Dainis Ivans, president of the Lithuanian Popular Front, in an interview carried in Tuesday's "NEPSZABADSAG". 'The Lithuanian Popular Front would like to realize the Leninist conception according to which only the diplomatic and military apparata should be common in the federative Soviet state. Naturally, this does not exclude the right of the member republic to political independence.' According to Mr Ivans, they could thus create relations and sign contracts with other states, while the allied diplomacy would guarantee their interests in the strategic sense. The president of the Lithuanian Popular Front stressed that Lithuania is not characterized by a separatist spirit, persons who would like to stop perestroyka spread this about Lithuania. He added that ensuring the national rights of the Lithuanian people will guarantee the rights of the other peoples in the Lithuanian Republic.

According to Mr Ivans, centralized planning should either be eliminated in economy, or should be maintained only in the strategic directions. He holds it as an impossibility that politicians have to deal with how much meat or iron should be produced. In his view, economy is a natural process, which today is frequently upset in the Soviet Union with the State Planning Committee, the Gosplan. 'In case self-accounting and market economy become prevailing, then our living standard will depend exclusively on us, and the quality of our work', stressed the president of the Lithuanian Popular Front in an interview with "NEPSZABADSAG".

Readers Score 'Sajudis' Extremists

PM2311171188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 2

[Own correspondent L. Kapelyushnyy article under the rubric "Events: Essence and Opinions": "Movement and 'Stop-Action.' What Happened in the Vilnius Streets Last Monday"—first paragraph is an introduction]

[Text] We recently informed our readers about the origins of the Movement and our attitude toward it. We are prepared to reaffirm that we support everything sensible and useful that can be found within it. Unfortunately, the latest events cannot be described as either sensible or useful. They could be compared with the hysterics of spoilt kids, were it not been for the fact that the place of young children had been taken by grown men who had chosen the city streets and squares to demonstrate their inability to engage in politics and who overstepped the boundaries of respect for man, the law, and order.

Vilnius—All traffic came to a halt: Expressive young people (a handful of them, by the way) formed a wall across the highway. That was the start of the "stop-action"—the Movement halted all movement, thus protesting against the decisions by the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet's latest session.

That was the best session I have ever attended. And not just I. It was generally recognized that, for the first time in all its history, the republic's parliament did more than just unanimously vote in support—there were arguments on virtually every question. The opinions expressed were at times diametrically opposite. The prepared draft decisions were edited and reworked as they went along. I would describe this session as a sharp turnabout by Lithuania's soviets in the direction of democratization, their transition from a state of representing power to a state of exercising power. Is this not what we have been talking about so much in the last few years?

For 2 days the republic television carried live coverage from the hall where the Supreme Soviet was sitting, from the first to the very last minute. Voters were given an opportunity to see how the deputies implemented their will. The agenda contained questions whose solution had been impatiently and long awaited by all of Lithuania. And all of Lithuania witnessed how Lithuanians were given back V. Kudirka's "National Song" as their national anthem. How the Lithuanian language acquired the status of a state language. How the yellow-green-red flag was hoisted above the republic parliament building likewise as the state flag.

There can be no doubt at all that these decisions are historic and that the people realized this: There was a flood of telegrams sent to the session. The chairman read them with gratification, the audience heard them with equal gratification.

Could the deputies have imagined that at the building's entrance, in the square where their compatriots had stood for 2 days with yellow-green-red flags and banner slogans calling for the adoption of the historical decisions I mentioned above, those selfsame compatriots would greet them with hysterical screams and insults?

"Such hooligan-like attacks can hardly have been experienced by parliamentarians in any other country. The insulting slogans testified to the vulgarity of the organizers of and participants in the action. What has happend to our 'Sajudis?' Yesterday they were joking that any old scullion could run the state. At the start of the session they gave deputies their slogans telling them how to vote and now, having realized that deputies really can make decisions, they are insulting them." This was to be written on the next day by teacher Y. Avgustinaytis. And he was to make the assumption—a bitter assumption, by the way—that the republic authorities are powerless in the face of unbridled extremists.

That evening marked the start of three disturbing days in Lithuania.

Why was it that those picketing in the Movement's name met the deputies with such indignation? I saw—by the entrance and somewhat to the side—a heap of banners and posters which were no longer needed: about the language, the flag, the anthem, and the Lithuanians' national dignity. Out of the entire "agenda" translated into the language of banners, the only ones waving above the crowd's heads were demands to adopt a new Constitution or amend the old Constitution, the selfsame amendments which were adopted a few days earlier in neighboring Estonia.

Addressing the session to which they had been invited as guests, representatives of the Movement asked the deputies to display solidarity and support the neighbors. But the deputies sensibly decided that everyone choses his own path. Without hiding behind words, any adoption of laws running contrary to the USSR Constitution would have been tantamount to withdrawal from the USSR. Could such a step have been taken without asking the people's opinion? Could a crucial political decision been made "for other people's sake," without giving a thought to who will be the Lithuanian people's friends tomorrow? What will they eat and drink, what will they use to cultivate the land, what will they use to fill the tanks of their cars, and how will they light their streets?

It must be said quite plainly: Deputies, the republic's government, and the Movement bear an unequal burden of responsibility for Lithuania. For that reason some leaders of "Sajudis" went to extremes—more from ambition than an analysis of the real political situation. Essentially, this was an exploitation of the Movement's strength and popularity. If it has been recognized as a popular movement (and much has been said and written about that lately) then here you are, comrade, here's a government, that has dared to disobey: the severance of relations and the demand for the immediate convening of a new session. In the squares and streets they began collecting their fellow citizens' signatures against several people—to show the lack of political faith in them. Insulting placards began to appear in large number. As intimidation and a hint of the mass strikes to come they called a "stop-action."

Foreign radio stations exulted—the people of Lithuania are protesting.

The people of Lithuania, incidentally, could not fit into any square. And even when the Movement assembled around 100,000 people for its rallies this was only a small part of Lithuania.

The people have now reacted to the action of the Movement's leadership as a sober-minded people should react to the suggestion to destabilize the situation.

"'Sajudis' got carried away after its initial victories," is the verdict in the letter from I. Digris and D. Digrene from Vilnius. "We are indignant at the 'Sajudis' leaders' actions pertaining to the national and territorial isolation of Lithuania. We demand that the republic Supreme Soviet's deputies be protected against blackmail and pressure from extremists," the workers of the "Zhalgiris" machine building plant demand.

Unfortunately, the talk of blackmail and pressure is true. The frenzied proponents of democratism and freedom of opinions, the uncompromising judges of adventurism, of the diktat of strength, and so forth resorted to the old and trusted methods. Telephone calls at night, veiled threats, blackmail, exploitation of the sacred concepts of duty and love for the motherland—all that was used to collect signatures from those deputies repudiating the decision they had taken and demanding that an extraordinary session be convened.

Around 40 people signed. The venture failed.

The Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee has recently been receiving an endless stream of letters and telegrams. The collectives of plants and kolkhozes, school teachers, party committees, rank and file Communists, and ordinary citizens of their land have assured the Central Committee that they have made their choice and are in step with the party. These anxious November days were a serious test for the Central Committee—would it control the situation? Will it go back on its word?

The Movement's leadership meanwhile met and issued a demand for an open discussion with government members in front of the TV cameras. It clearly betrayed a wing of implacable radicals...

"How offensive it was that the joy at the decisions on the flag, the language, and the anthem—historic decisions for Lithuanians—should be clouded by the vulgarity of the members of 'Sajudis' and their unrealistic demands. I am amazed, where did those great minds which created the Movement get to? After all, we admired them for this. We trusted the Movement because we trusted their integrity, their uncompromising nature, and the purity of their schemes. I was so upset I wept... When I looked at the pickets it was particularly clear to me, a former exile, how the future could be. I believe that the Movement's leadership should publicly apologize to the deputies. Gudavichyute-Ostaykene."

And indeed—where are those lofty minds? Why did "Prof Landsbergis' team," as one correspondent called the group of immoderates, gain the upper hand in the leadership? It is gratifying that they include no one who constitutes the pride of the Movement. But it is regrettable that they did not form a counterbalance to that team.

Furthermore, it is hard for me to judge, since I do not know what happened at the Movement council's sessions. The available evidence suggests that those who try to heed the voice of reason are having labels slapped on them from all sides...

I am not naming those members of the leadership who are not now in favor in the "team." They created "Sajudis." And it is matter of honor for the actual Movement to defend them. It is a matter of honor to choose whether the Movement is led or proceeds under its own steam. It is matter of honor to compare this first serious disagreement with the previously proclaimed principles of the Movement—democratic spirit, pluralism of opinion, and freedom of judgment. Do passions worked up to a fever pitch and extremist decisions meet the national interests?

Are we debunking the past, where labels were attached, merciless sentences passed, and so forth, merely for everything to be repeated afresh under new and not-so-new slogans?

There cannot be two democracies—one for the Movement, another for the rest. The means to the end are an end in themselves. The bright future is not being built on a foundation of intimidation and suppression of the will of others.

"It is necessary for us Lithuanians to learn to understand one another, to be pure in heart, to have patience, and to know how to forgive. The 'Sajudis' leadership is in no way lacking all this. [signed] The Bakusov family."

I must say that these qualities—understanding, patience, and the desire for consolidation rather than confrontation—have also been demonstrated by the republic's leaders recently. The whole of Lithuania was roused by the address on republic television by Central Committee First Secretary A. Brazauskas. The point is not even that he spoke accurately about things of importance—he experienced what happened in a purely human way.

"I thank you through tears of joy for restoring our Catholic church to us, for elevating our language to state rank, and for our anthem and flag. I can no longer do anything to help you in your work, but I send a prayer to the Virgin Mary, I will pray that all the upstarts are restored to common sense. [signed] Biruta Dalene."

"There is no need to panic, comrade secretary. The absolute majority supports the party and government and the decisions taken at the session. We in our family greeted them with tears of joy. [signed] P. Matskyavichene."

"All sensible people are now advancing with the party and government. I believe that that they will steer Lithuania on a firm course ahead. There is no use in going back: As was once wisely said, we have already been there. I wish you strong nerves. [signed] A. Saulyavichyus."

"I think your line is correct. And as a member of the Movement support group I will sign no appeals to review the session decisions. [signed] V. Zhemaytite."

The time when the Movement beat loudly on the drum of rally-based democracy has passed. The time has come to transform the restructuring slogans into restructuring deeds. This, incidentally, is being undertaken by the majority of the members of the Movement, which is why it can be called a people's movement. It is its people-based nature and nothing else that made the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee cooperate with it. But it seems to me that certain activists in the Movement council have recently been blinded by arrogance. They have considered themselves the arbiters of the republic's fate. They have casually taken the credit due to the mass of the people, who form the Movement's core, and put their strength down to themselves. This, alas, was mistaken. The declared confrontation put the Movement's leadership in an awkward position—it indeed worked against the Movement. What follows from this? It follows that we must know how to learn from our mistakes.

The pro-restructuring movement has had a long incubation period among the people. It is the result of long creative effort by the best people in the republic. It has to be fought for. That is the decision that the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee also came to at its recent aktiv conference.

Slyunkov Attends Lithuanian 11 Nov Party Meeting

PM2511153188 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 12 Nov 88 p 1

[ELTA report: "Meeting at Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] Vilnius, 11 Nov—A meeting was held at the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee today between N.N. Slyunkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and members and candidate members of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau. Deputy chairmen of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairmen of the republic's Council of Ministers, chiefs of Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee departments, senior officials from the Lithuanian Komsomol Central Committee, leaders of the mass media, and central newspaper correspondents in Lithuania were invited to the meeting.

During the meeting A.K. Brazauskas, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, gave a briefing on the restructuring under way in all spheres of the republic's life, the implementation of the decisions of the 19th All-Union Party Conference and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and the activity of the republic's party organization. Comrade A.K. Brazauskas also discussed the work to draw up proposals linked with territorial economic accountability [khozraschet], and socioeconomic and ecological problems in the republic. Certain union ministries were criticized.

In his speech N.N. Slyunkov noted that the trips by members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo to various parts of the USSR are part of the party Central Committee's work. During his stay in the republic he will familiarize himself with the progress of restructuring in the economy and with questions of improving the operation of the national economy and the acceleration of scientific and technical progress.

The frank and comradely talk analyzed how the republic is fulfilling the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the 19th All-Union Party Conference, and CPSU Central Committee plenums, and questions of industrial and agricultural development were discussed—particularly the problems of food supplies to the population. It is necessary to move resolutely forward in this direction and to study and borrow the experience of front-rankers.

Economic reform also means expanding the economic independence of the republics and other regions. Documents have been drafted on this issue, and they are being examined at the USSR Council of Ministers. The chairmen of all union republic councils of ministers will take part in this work in the very near future.

The meeting stressed that all the decisions of the 19th All-Union Party Conference must be unconditionally fulfilled. The nationwide discussion of the USSR draft laws on amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution and on elections of USSR people's deputies is intended to create the conditions for implementing the first stage of political reform. It is planned to introduce into the Constitution only those changes on whose basis the supreme organs of power are to be reorganized. Other important tasks—such as the harmonization of relations between the USSR and the union republics, and the status of union and autonomous republics—will be resolved at subsequent stages of the political transformations. It is planned to expand their rights and abilities in various spheres of economic, sociopolitical, and cultural life.

Comrade N.N. Slyunkov noted that, in accordance with the decisions of the 19th party conference, a law is being drafted on local self-management and the local economy.

The meeting also discussed other topical questions concerning the republic and the entire country.

Before the meeting began Comrade N.N. Slyunkov spoke with Vilnius people who had assembled at the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and answered their questions.

Further on Latvian Supreme Soviet Session

LD2311183188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Report by Moscow radio commentator Mikhail Levin on the Latvian Supreme Soviet session held 22 November in Riga]

[Text] [Levin] The republican press today is publishing part of the materials of the routine session of the supreme soviet of the [Latvian] republic which concluded its work late yesterday evening. The republic's population had hitherto shown unprecedented interest in this event.

In the square in front of the House of Political Education building, where the session was held, there were constantly hundreds of people with posters, placards, and appeals to the deputies. The basic theme was the extension of democracy and the strengthening of the republic's sovereignty.

The course of the session was relayed in full by republican radio.

After discussing and approving the draft plan for economic and social development and the republic's budget for the coming year, the session considered drafts laws on amendments and supplements to the Constitution of the USSR and on the elections of people's deputies of the country.

The discussion on these issues was most heated and ambiguous. However, the significant preparatory work by the republic's supreme soviet Presidium had a positive effect on the result. The thing is that in the middle of November, on its initiative and with the participation of qualified specialists on state law, precise and specific proposals and supplements to the draft laws were elaborated. These were submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium by a delegation led by Anatoliy Gorbunov, recently elected chairman of the republic's supreme soviet Presidium. The delegation also included Arnis Plotnyeks, doctor of juridical sciences and professor at the Latvian State University, who took part in the working groups of the Legislative Proposals Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Comrade Plotnyeks spoke at the session yesterday, and we have invited him to the microphone.

[Plotnyeks] To briefly summarize the results of what we currently have, I would say that, on a number of questions, our proposals are being implemented in part. This particularly relates to the allocation of plenipotentiary powers between the highest bodies of state power of the union and the republics. This also relates to the republic's involvement in the activity of the highest USSR bodies. This also relates to the legal regulations of the USSR Constitution and to the organization of the activity of the bodies of power of the republics.

At the same time, there are still many other such problems and proposals which have been partially discussed and have already been partially rejected. We feel that on the question, say, of the consistent maintenance of the democratic principles of the electoral system, which are fixed in the currently valid Constitution, these principles should be maintained in the future. This also relates to the formation of both chambers of the supreme soviet. Talks are also underway on this, and we hope that some of our other ideas will be embodied in the final version of the drafts.

[Levin] After the discussion, the deputies approved by a majority of votes the Presidium's decision on the proposals on the drafts of the aforementioned laws.

Support for 'Sovereign Rights'

LD2311165588 Hamburg DPA in German 1525 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Moscow (DPA)—In contrast to Estonia and Lithuania, the Latvian Supreme Soviet has spoken in favor of having the sovereign rights of the Soviet Union republics guaranteed by the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow. As Dainis Selmanis, spokesman for the Latvian Foreign Ministry said in Riga today in a telephone conversation with DPA, the Latvian Supreme Soviet passed the relevant resolution yesterday at its session without any votes against and only 13 abstentions.

According to this proposal, which is to be put to Moscow, there must be a vote on all questions of national significance in both chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities, Selmanis said. The Latvian plan envisions a proposal counting as rejected if it is turned down by one republic in the Soviet of Nationalities, in which all 15 Soviet republics are to be equally represented.

Further, the Latvian Supreme Soviet Presidium passed an addendum, according to Selmanis, in which it says that "acceptance of these proposals by the USSR

Supreme Soviet is an indispensable precondition for the democratization of the life of society." However the speaker admitted that it still could not be foreseen what would happen if the Supreme Soviet were to reject the proposal at its next session at the beginning of next week in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Deputies Reject Front Pressure

PM2511114388 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 25 Nov 88 p 3

[Own correspondent V. Proskura article under the rubric "The USSR Is Our Common Home": "They Did Not Succumb to Pressure"]

[Text] Latvian SSR—*These lines are being written right after the conclusion of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet session. In addition to other questions, it examined the draft Law on Changes and Additions to the USSR Constitution. Deputies were joined in the session hall by their invited guests—representatives of the public from Riga's plants and construction sites, of creative intelligentsia unions, of the Academy of Sciences... A vivid banner was on display by the entrance to the republic Communist Party Central Committee Political Education House, where the session sat: "No To Political Adventurers!" That was the appeal by workers from the Latvian SSR International Working People's Front. That was the mandate of Soviet Latvia's voters.*

A handful of frozen "informals" with provocative nationalist slogans could also be seen milling around the main entrance. As a matter of fact, nowadays these people can also be seen elsewhere. In the food store on Lidonyu Street, for example. The administration of this smart shopping center has introduced a new and highly original form of customer service. A table has been placed right next to the counter, and two loudmouthed importunate adolescents ask everyone in the line to sign a protest against the draft Law on Changes and Additions to the USSR Constitution.

The youths have been encouraged by a saleswoman—a member of the Latvian Popular Front aktiv, as she was introduced to those who did not know. Children who had hurriedly made their way there to buy some candy found this "adult" procedure rather interesting—the kids rummaged for ballpoint pens inside their satchels. As we can see, the organizers of provocative political confectionery sales speculate with everything they can.

The importuning around the Freedom Monument in the center of Riga was being done by what seemed to be more solid people—the stylish attire worn by some of them could even have "suited" intellectuals. But the leaflets in their hands were exactly the same—"protest resolutions." Who, may I ask, compiled these confusing appeals? The robust pickets replied tersely: The Latvian Popular Front. And the overall impression was: Don't think about it, just pick up the pen and sign your name. Similar ventures have also been organized in cafes and hospitals, in light entertainment halls, in vocational and technical school dormitories, in university auditoriums. Pickets have even stood outside kindergartens waiting for the parents.

In their addresses to the population on republic radio and television and from the pages of some press organs the Latvian Popular Front leaders have incessantly juggled with a word that is precious to us—restructuring. Indeed, they seem to have learned "to restructure" themselves almost overnight. During the festive procession by Riga's residents to mark the Great October anniversary the column behind the Latvian Popular Front sign carried a poster reading: "Migrants—Out of Latvia." And yet, when it became necessary to display an "expression of mass will," when they needed signatures beneath a dubious resolution hurriedly knocked together by a handful of homegrown "experts," nobody bothered any more to ask passersby whether their name was Ivanov or Petrenko, whether they happened to be "nonindigenous." Just sign on the dotted line, and you are "one of us." Some "internationalism"...

At a meeting of the republic party, soviet, and ideological aktiv, Hero of Socialist Labor G. Grineva, adjuster at Riga's V.I. Lenin VEF Production Association, spoke of the avalanche of "moral pressure" which engulfed her, in her capacity as USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, literally within an hour of the speech by journalist D. Ivans, "president of the Popular Front," on Latvian television. It appears that the "Latvian Popular Front Duma" had passed a special resolution rejecting "Moscow's proposed" constitutional draft laws "as infringing the rights of the national republics." Without any discussion or debate the order went out to vote against, and that was that.

A resolute "No!" to unbridled anarchy can be heard today in the thousands of Latvian SSR labor collectives. At meetings, rallies, and discussions the working class categorically rejects the "national-social" [natsionalno-sotsialnyye] games played beneath the camouflage of democratic pluralism of opinions, and veterans are persuading their confused younger comrades to change their minds. This process can be broadly described as consolidation, as ideological rallying.

The Latvian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau condemned the attempts to pressure deputies to the USSR and Latvian SSR Supreme Soviets, the picketing of party and state organizations by irresponsible elements, and the involvement of minors in political manifestations.

The Latvian Supreme Soviet's regular session ended its work according to the agenda. It examined the progress of fulfillment of national economic targets, next year's plans for socioeconomic development, the state of the republic's budget, and the supply of locally made high-quality footwear... The deputies also discussed the drafts of the new union laws.

"But not according to the adventurers' diktat," I was told by Riga worker K. Nyuksha, fitter and toolmaker at Riga's Electrical Machine Building Plant and republic supreme soviet deputy. "Latvia's working people and their deputies are loyal to their international duty, their family of brother-peoples, and their socialist motherland, the USSR. The immature juveniles will burn their fingers."

A. Gorbunov, chairman of the republic supreme soviet presidium, prefaced his report on the draft USSR laws with a protest against improper actions by members of the "Latvian Popular Front Duma." During recesses between session sittings they tried to slip onto deputies' desks and chairs their irritating "appeals." Latvian Popular Front leaders were forced to make a public apology... Deputies refused a "Front" representative permission to speak from the rostrum because his statement did not contain anything constructive—just the same old verbiage about "national ultimatum."

The republic supreme soviet session adopted, with a few abstentions, a resolution on the report by the presidium chairman. Its essence is that the "Latvian package" of suggestions on the draft union constitutional law will be passed on for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

I cannot fail to emphasize: The Latvian SSR public is inspired by the atmosphere of unanimity, responsibility, and common sense which reigned at the republic supreme soviet session. Nor do I intend to conceal something else. A few minutes before transmitting this dispatch I called at the Latvian Council of Ministers. A handful of ill-assorted pickets were to be found right outside the porch of Government House. Passersby were joking: "If each one of them were to pick up a shovel, the benefit would be much greater..." It is openly being said in Riga that an "informal" picket is paid R10 and even more for every hour spent carrying a banner. To be honest, I am unwilling to believe that such deals are real.

'Pressure' From Popular Front Hit

PM2311165188 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 17 Nov 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The People Discuss"]

[Excerpts] "We have a right to be proud, and we are proud," V.I. Lenin wrote soon after [Great] October, "that we have had the good fortune to begin building the Soviet state and thereby usher in a new epoch of the rule of a new class..." The good fortune to continue the cause of the revolution and restore the Leninist concept of socialism is no less, and it has fallen to the lot of the Soviet people today.

The consistent policy pursued by the CPSU and the decisions of the 27th party congress and the 19th party conference predetermined the profound political reform. Important legal documents have been drawn up, including the draft USSR Laws on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution and on Elections of USSR People's Deputies. Submitted for nationwide discussion, they constitute real conditions for creating genuine people's power and asserting democratic principles in state management. [passage omitted]

The majority of the republic's working people approve of the draft laws, thoughtfully elaborate on particular points, and propose supplementing them. Certain leaders and activists of the Popular Front have taken a different stand. In the form of a sharp ultimatum, they have, in point of fact, embarked on a path of rejecting the documents, demanding that they not be discussed because they infringe upon Latvia's interests. What is more, on the initiative of the Latvian Popular Front [LPF], signatures are being collected for protest proclamations, party and soviet establishments are being picketed, and a campaign of strong pressure on USSR and republic Supreme Soviet deputies is being mounted.

Working people were legitimately indignant to read the article "On Tuesday" in the newspaper PADOMYU YAUNATNE on 10 November, which declared the USSR draft laws "a revision of the new CPSU policy, even overt counterrevolution, and a substantial step backward to the period of stagnation." The same reaction was provoked by the politically incorrect attempt to urge working people to attend demonstrations in Riga and in other cities and rayons of the republic as a sign of protest against the draft laws. LPF Chairman D. Ivans made this appeal on the recent "Labvakar" television program.

Such steps by the LPF leaders attest to the discrepancy between their words and their deeds and to the manifest deviation from their organization's program theses. In this connection the actions of D. Ivans, CPSU member and delegate to the 19th party conference, should be regarded as unethical and deserving of a principled party assessment.

Party organizations must draw the necessary lessons from the course of the discussion of the draft laws and divert it into the channel of a constructive dialogue and a mutual search for decisions which accord with the demands of restructuring. The mass news and propaganda media, the ideological aktiv, "Znaniye" Society lecturers, juridical science cadres, and law-enforcement organ personnel are required to play a large role here.

People believe that the new laws are not just words, that they will really function, and that we are to live according to these laws of democracy, the laws of a rule-of-law state. Only concerted, harmonious work can strengthen the positions of restructuring. Practical deeds are the chief thing today.

Armenian Supreme Soviet Stresses Demands

LD2511102088 Hamburg DPA in German 0924 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—Late last night the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Caucasian Republic of Armenia apparently resolved to stick to its demand for the integration of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia. In a reliable report from Yerevan, it was said further this morning that the most important squares in the city were cordoned off and that soldiers had been massed. A spokesman for the Armenian Foreign Ministry stated earlier that a nightly curfew had been imposed on the city as a precautionary measure.

According to the journalists' report, it is said further that the Armenian parliament passed a total of four resolutions. According to these, Yerevan is sticking to its demand for the integration of Nagorno-Karabakh into Armenia. It also was decided to define as genocide the anti-Armenian riots in the Azerbaijani town of Sumgait at the start of the year. The parliament further passed a strong protest against the Soviet national press, which was "anti-Armenian" in its reporting and had contributed to "inciting nationalities" against one another.

According to the report, in the fourth resolution the constitutional reform being put forward in Moscow was rejected "in this form." The Armenian parliament demanded the formation of a commission in which all nationalities were represented equally. This commission should work out a completely new constitution for the USSR. This demand was passed earlier by the Georgian Supreme Soviet.

More on 22 Nov Armenian Session

NC2411152288 Yerevan ARMENPRESS International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Yerevan, 23 Nov (ARMENPRESS)—The 8th session of the 11th convocation of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet opened on 22 November in Yerevan's Stepan Shaumyan Hall.

The members of the Presidium were Suren Arutyunyan, Grant Voskanyan, Fadey Sarkisyan, and Arkadiy Volskiy, the representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO], as well as other officials of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and Government.

The session was opened by S.G. Tonoyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet. The chairman stated that elections were held in four okrugs of the Armenian SSR to replace dismissed deputies. The report by the committee in charge of the elections on the credentials of the elected deputies was heard. The report was read by Deputy Sh.B. Davtyan, member of the committee. The Supreme Soviet unanimously approved the credentials of the newly elected deputies. They are G.K. Oganesyan from the Nagorno-Karabakh Okrug, G.N. Asanov from the Amasiya Okrug in Amasiskiy Rayon, G.V. Stambolyan from Yerevan's (Narekatsu) Okrug, and A.G. (Manucharyan) from the Abovyan City Students' Okrug.

The session approved the agenda and started its discussions.

On organizational matters, the floor was given to Deputy G.M. Voskanyan, chairman of the Presidium of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet. At the proposal of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet's [word indistinct] council, he presented to the session for discussion a series of organizational matters on which the relative decisions were adopted by the session. The Supreme Soviet relieved Deputy V.B. Ghalumyan from his post as deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium to assign him to another position. Deputy S.S. Avetisyan was elected deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The deputies then began their discussions on the Armenian SSR's state (?plan) and budget.

The Supreme Soviet unanimously accepted the state plan on the economic and social development of the Armenian SSR in 1989 and on a decision on the implementation of the 1987 Armenian SSR state plan on economic and social development.

Immediately afterwards, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet began discussions on a draft bill concerning the fourth issue on the agenda: "the condemnation of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey in 1915."

Deputy S.G. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke on the topic. Speeches were heard by Deputies G.R. Simonyan from Yerevan's G. Agopyan Okrug, K.L. Dallakyan from Leninakan's Antaravan Okrug, and V.E. Amazaspyan from Yerevan's Timiryazev Okrug.

The Supreme Soviet approved a bill on the topic. (will be filed separately). [ARMENPRESS parentheses]

The fifth topic on the agenda was the implementation by the republic's Soviet and economic bodies of the decisions by the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers on the socioeconomic development of the NKAO. A speech on this was delivered by Deputy F.T. Sarkisyan, chairman of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers. (to be filed separately) [ARMENPRESS parentheses]

During the session reports were heard on the tension in some parts of Azerbaijan where conflicts took place on ethnic soil and extremist elements resorted to activities in certain areas. Urgent measures are being taken to improve the situation and to ensure the security of the residents.

The situation that has been created can result in grave consequences. Realizing their responsibility as far as public order and the people's security are concerned, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies unanimously decided to postpone the session until public order is established in various areas.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, the Armenian Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers have appealed to all the republic's residents to display self-control and orderly behavior.

Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Discusses Constitution

NC2311182188 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 23 Nov 88

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] The newspapers report that the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium met under Suleyman Tatliyev on 22 November to examine the progress of the debate held in the republic on the changes that will be effected in the USSR Constitution and [words indistinct] and on the draft laws concerning the election of people's deputies in the Soviet Union. It was noted that the debate on the draft laws is taking place when the political activity of the people and the (?responsibility) of the citizens have increased and [words indistinct].

The presidium adopted a relevant decision on the matter discussed.

Azerbaijan Council Approves Housing Program

NC2311181788 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0440 GMT 23 Nov 88

[From the Republican Press Review]

[Text] The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers has debated and determined the course of the housing program which is to be carried out up to the year 2000, and the course of the current program, which went into effect in 1986.

The newspapers report that a certain degree of progress has been achieved in the construction of houses in the republic. In fact, the pace of construction work has significantly increased. Effective measures are being implemented to further improve the [word indistinct], while some progress has been achieved in constructing individual houses in rural areas as well.

Nevertheless, the housing question is still a serious problem. Funds allocated for the construction of houses are not being used in a number of cities and rayons in the republic, and the requirements for setting up new housing areas are not being fulfilled.

The Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers decided to approve the housing program, which will be effective up to the year 2000, and the current program, which took effect in 1986. The programs call for the construction of 57.53 million cubic meters of residential buildings by the end of the century. The pace of construction work will be increased 2.7 times. Meanwhile, the funds allocated for the construction of houses will be significantly increased.

The decision adopted by the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers assigned various tasks to the pertinent ministries, administrations, and organizations.

Georgia Supreme Soviet Discusses Draft Laws

LD2311203088 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tbilisi November 23 TASS—Today the Georgian Supreme Soviet held a session to discuss the republic's plan for economic and social development and budget for 1989.

Analysing the economic situation of the republic, deputies mentioned a certain improvement in the major indicators characterising the performance of national economy. It was also pointed out that the difficulties and deficiencies that had appeared in the previous period have not been fully overcome. The upshot: The planned growth of industrial output has not been achieved. The fuel and energy, engineering, agro-industrial and social sectors have not fulfilled the five-year plan assignments.

The republic's budget envisages concentration of financial resources for carrying out progressive structural changes in the economy, and furtherance of perestroyka of the economy.

The deputies examined the progress of the national debate in the republic of the draft laws of the USSR "On changes and amendments to the Constitution (fundmental law) of the USSR" and "On elections of people's deputies of the USSR".

On a proposal of deputies, the session unanimously decided to report to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet that the Supreme Soviet of Georgia deems it necessary to introduce in the draft laws those changes that are demanded by the public of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic and to speed up the elaboration of the new constitution of the USSR.

More on 23 Nov Session

NC2511062788 Tbilisi Domestic Service in Russian 0537 GMT 25 Nov 88

[From the review of ZARYA VOSTOKA]

[Text] The paper continues to publish material on the 23 November session of the supreme soviet of the Georgian SSR. The session adopted laws of the Georgian SSR and debated the state plan for the economic and social development of the republic for 1989 and the state budget of the Georgian SSR for 1989. The session also approved the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgian SSR on the progress of the fulfillment of the state plan for the republic's economic and social development in 1988.

Ukraine Presidium on Estonian Amendments

LD2311175888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Over 106,000 responses and over 7,000 amendments, elaborations, and additions to the draft articles of USSR laws on changes and additions to the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the USSR and on the elections of USSR people's deputies have arrived from citizens at the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium. This data was read out at a regular session of the Presidium of the republican Supreme Soviet, held in Kiev today. [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 24 November, Second Edition, p 2 in a similar report adds: " Deputies who spoke at the session pointed out that citizens have voiced complete understanding of and support for the provisions of the draft laws at meetings of labor collectives and public organizations, at their places of residence, in the republic and local press, and in television and radio reports."]

In many of the pronouncements and letters of the working people, it was stated at the session, the fundamental significance of the consistent course of the party and the state toward strengthening the inter-ethnic unity of our society and perfecting and deepening relations between nationalities is being stressed. At the same time, particular attention is being drawn toward ensuring the further development of a single, national-economic complex of a union multinational state, the close cohesion of all peoples, and the fraternal mutual aid of republics, oblasts, towns, and rayons. The question is being acutely raised about a decisive rebuff to any attempts to undermine the friendship and unity of the peoples of the USSR.

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium believes that the amendments adopted at the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet session to Article 74 of the Constitution of that republic run counter to the basic principles of federalism which are sealed in the USSR Constitution, and do not facilitate the strengthening of the unity and cohesion of the Soviet peoples and the further development of the process of society's restructuring. Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the Presidium session.

RSFSR Deputies Deplore Estonian Decision

PM2311114988 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[G. Orlovskiy report: "Strong Through Fraternity. Notes From RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Session"]

[Text] In order to get a better idea of the scale of the discussion of the draft laws in Russia and of the work being done to ensure that every opinion is heard, let us discuss the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session held 21 November. The Presidium alone has received 80,000 comments, suggestions, and remarks from the provinces, 20,000 different amendments and additions have been submitted, and new formulations are even being proposed on a number of points.

The Presidium of our Russian Federation deemed it necessary to analyze on the fly, as it were, the course of the discussion of the draft laws and to determine people's attitude to the very important documents. This was the conclusion: On the whole, working people approve of the drafts and see them as an important and timely step toward realizing the 19th All-Union Party Conference guidelines on democratizing Soviet society and asserting the principles of a socialist rule-of-law state. Russia's multinational family is for strong people's power!

What is supported above all? The main provisions of the draft laws on the organization and activity of organs of state power and management and the assertion of the soviets' sovereignty as organs of the people's self-management. The democratic innovations in electoral practice have been approved.

This does not mean that all the draft laws' formulations have been accepted unconditionally. The Presidium believes, for example, that it is necessary to elaborate on the supreme soviet's constitutional status, increase the membership and concretize the competence of the Constitutional Oversight Committee, and lay down that judges must be elected by higher soviets. These and other proposals have been sent to the union Presidium.

Citizens' suggestions whose realization goes beyond the present stage of the political reform were noted at the session. They are being studied and will be examined in the course of the further transformation of state and social life. But they must be kept in mind, as it were. The Presidium resolution specially points out that soviets at all levels and their ispolkoms must particularly carefully analyze people's opinions on shortcomings in current affairs and resolve them without delay.

Deputy B.K. Chabdarov (Kabardino-Balkar ASSR) effectively formulated a thought expressed by all Presidium members: Only a strong union state can ensure the efficient development of all republics. The people of my republic, he said, admonished me: Say that only the fraternity of the peoples will strengthen the country and ensure restructuring! My voters have been very troubled by what is happening in the Estonian SSR. They asked that this be noted in our resolution: Let our Estonian brothers return once more to the decisions of their supreme soviet and weigh everything, only properly and on a democratic basis. Deputy Kh.Kh. Bokov (Chechen-Ingush ASSR) was more categorical: Yes, we are concerned. But we are also indignant, for they are trying to undermine the indivisibility of our wealth of the whole people.

The Presidium believes that the constitutional amendments adopted by the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet and certain other legislative acts run counter to the fundamental principles of socialist federalism enshrined in the USSR Constitution and do not promote the development of our unified multinational state.

After the session I spoke with Deputy L.N. Mironova, a milkmaid from the Moscow region. She very simply said: Why do we need glasnost and democracy? For the common cause, not for squabbles. We are working and will continue to labor for people, for the homeland. Write that down!

Some other questions of state life in the republic were examined at the Presidium session.

The session was chaired by V.I. Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Turkmen Supreme Soviet Discusses Plan, Budget

LD2411220988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] The Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet session held today discussed the state economic and social development plan and the republic's 1989 budget. It was pointed out that despite the work accomplished on production intensification, the introduction of new and effective management methods, and the social reorientation of the economy, there exist in the republic serious errors in organizational and production work. In agriculture, big losses are permitted during the harvest, transport, and storage of output. The lagging behind in capital construction has not been overcome. The plans for putting basic assets into use are not being fulfilled.

When discussing the plan for the new year, the deputies outlined possible ways to most quickly solve social and economic problems. Special attention will be paid to the tackling of the food problem, to filling the market with consumer goods, and to developing the services sector.

The session approved the laws on economic and social development and on the republics' budget for 1989. The decrees of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium were also approved.

Comrade Niyazov, first secretary of the Turkmenistan Central Committee, participated in the work of the session.

Belorussia Supreme Soviet Approves Basic Tenets

LD2411173588 Moscow TASS in English 1726 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Minsk November 24 TASS—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, of Belorussia met to discuss public debates in this Soviet constituent republic on draft laws on changes to the USSR Constitution and on elections.

It was pointed out that the bills, which have been submitted for nationwide discussion, have evoked a profound interest in Byelorussia.

The Presidium of the republican supreme soviet approved their basic provisions.

It does not share the non-constructive position of Estonia's Supreme Soviet as the latter's endorsed amendments to the Constitution of that republic and other adopted documents contradict the Constitution of the USSR, are at odds with the fundamental principles underlying the Soviet socialist federation and do not contribute to strengthening the integral Soviet multinational state and furthering the perestroyka reform drive.

Kazakh Supreme Soviet Comments on Estonian Acts

LD2311180888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] At a session of the Kazakhstan Supreme Soviet Presidium today, questions connected with the course of the discussion of the draft Law on Changes and Additions to the USSR Constitution and the Law on the Election of People's Deputies of the USSR were examined. The working people of the republic, the deputies said, have received these documents with great interest, and express their approval. The over 1,000 proposals, remarks and additions which have reached the supreme body of state power in the republic from them have been studied and generalized and sent to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Kazakh Supreme Soviet Presidium generally approved the aforementioned draft laws. Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee; Comrade Nurkadilov, Alma-Ata City Executive Committee chairman; Ivanova, patrol engineer of Ekibastuz Gres-1; Comrade (Sharf), general director of the Tselinograd Poultry Association; Comrade Aytmukhambetov, chairman of the republican

Supreme Court, and others who spoke noted that the legislative acts adopted by the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet at its extraordinary session of 16 November of this year run counter to the USSR Constitution norms, the basic principles of the legislative structure and the unity of the country, and weaken the economic basis of our multinational state. This has also been reflected in the decision of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Chebrikov Interviewed by Estonian Media

PM2411110188 Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 16 Nov 88 p 2

["V.M. Chebrikov: The Estonian Communist Party Central Committee 11th Plenum—a Decisive Step Toward a Radical Change in the Situation. Interview for Estonian Television, Radio, and the ETA (Estonian Telegraph Agency)"—SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA headline]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades!

First of all, I would like to express satisfaction at the opportunity which has come my way to visit your republic. Estonia's main wealth is its people, who are creating material and spiritual values. Their love of work and creative approach to crucial problems are widely known. These qualities are of tremendous importance today, more than ever before.

A revolutionary restructuring of sociopolitical, socioeconomic, and cultural life has been launched in our country at the initiative of the Communist Party and with the powerful support of the Soviet people. This work is unthinkable without the maximum utilization of the creative potential of all nations and ethnic groups.

My visit to your republic has enabled me to acquaint myself with the progress of the process of renewal here. To obtain first-hand information, as they say. It is important to exchange opinions with people, to openly discuss what is hampering restructuring and what still has to be done to ensure even swifter progress in this process. After all, it is not just a question of laying a reliable groundwork for the future. It is necessary to ensure that restructuring produces tangible results right now, that it has a positive impact on the life of every person.

During these past few days I have managed to visit the "Norma" production association, the "Dvigatel" plant named for V.I. Lenin, and the "Kekhtna" sovkhoz-cum-technical school. I was able to talk to many workers, peasants, and national economy specialists.

Today I had a detailed conversation with a large group of members of the republic Communist Party Central Committee and party gorkom and raykom first secretaries. Taking part in the conversation were leaders of a number of ministries and departments, press workers, and representatives of the scientific and creative intelligentsia and of the People's Front and the Interdvizheniye. I have, of course, acquainted myself with what the newspapers are writing and the radio and television are broadcasting.

What I have seen and heard gives me reason to conclude that the republic is living a tumultuous political life. Ever new strata and new sections of the population are joining in. An unusual upsurge of people's national consciousness can be observed. It needs to be noted here that of course not everything in these processes is uniform. Alongside the tremendous positive charge there are also quite a few negative phenomena.

The sociopolitical climate in the country is at the moment greatly influenced by our country's draft Law on Amendments and Additions to the USSR Constitution and Law on Elections of People's Deputies of the USSR, which have been published. Having been submitted for nationwide discussion, they are evoking the Soviet people's lively interest.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has already received more than 83,000 comments from individual citizens and organizations. A committed debate is under way in the press, radio, television, labor collectives, and public organizations.

This interest in the draft documents is only natural. People have understood quite correctly that this is a question of one of the key avenues in the implementation of the policy of restructuring. It is the beginning of a deep political reform and of vigorous efforts to implement the economic transformations without which our further headway is impossible.

Most of the comments express approval for the draft laws. At the same time a large number of amendments and clarifications are being submitted. There are also individual objections to a number of provisions contained in the draft laws. Examining the progress of the nationwide discussion of the draft laws, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has emphasized the need most carefully to take account of all suggestions without shrugging off anything, because there is much that is useful and incontrovertible.

In short, not a single argument must be ignored. After all, the documents have been published so that they could be subjected to a critical analysis and enriched by the whole people.

This work is already under way in the Legislative Proposals Commissions of both USSR Supreme Soviet chambers. Summing up the results of the discussion, the commissions are to prepare appropriate well-reasoned conclusions.

In your republic the situation as regards the discussion of the draft laws is somewhat different. There are positive comments, constructive amendments, and valuable additions. But there are also not a few negative assessments of the draft laws. Demands are even being made that the discussion of the drafts be ended and that they should not be included on the agenda of the upcoming USSR Supreme Soviet session.

In my view, this categorical rejection is to be explained by a failure to understand the aim which is to be achieved thanks to the proposed changes and also by insufficient information. It is possible, in my opinion, that explanatory work in some places in the republic is poor.

It is necessary to realize that restructuring is a complex, multilayered, and gradual process, I stress, a gradual process. Today the reform of our political system is on the agenda, a reform whose main ideas were contained in the materials of the 19th all-union party conference. However, we cannot embark on this reform without changing a number of the Constitution's provisions and without reorganizing the existing practice of elections to soviets.

Therefore we propose to introduce to the Constitution only the additions on the basis of which the reorganization of the supreme organs of power is to be carried out. Other major tasks are to be resolved at subsequent stages of political transformations.

As you know, in April the Congress of People's Deputies of our country will meet for the first time. It will elect the Supreme Soviet which is to implement an extensive legislative program. The preparation of a number of legislative documents has already begun.

First of all I would like to mention the draft law on local self-management and the local economy. Its main purpose consists in the creation of the material and legal conditions which will enable soviets to attend to the practical solution of questions pertaining to local life.

This presupposes the implementation of major measures in the introduction of regional economic accountability. An effective management mechanism should be created which will focus local organs on drawing all the resources on their territory into economic circulation.

An important step toward the creation of the rule-of-law state will be the adoption of laws on constitutional oversight and on the procedure for the compilation of legislative documents.

The elaboration of the following draft laws is under way:

on the press;

on trade union rights;

on young people;

on voluntary societies;

on freedom of conscience, and others.

As you know, at the end of next year, after corresponding changes have been introduced in the constitutions of union and autonomous republics, elections of deputies to all echelons of the soviet representative organs are to take place on their territories. We have every reason to expect that as a result the role of the soviets will increase considerably and new forms of the working people's activeness will emerge.

The practice of renewal in the sphere of state building will, of course, confront us with additional questions which will have to be solved. Obviously, it will also be necessary to further improve the Constitution which, as V.I. Lenin said, "serves and will continue constantly to serve the working people as a powerful weapon in the struggle for the implementation of socialism."

I would now like to dwell on one criticism of the draft laws. For some reason, there is a widespread view in the republic that the proposed additions and amendments to the Constitution do not guarantee the Estonian SSR political and economic autonomy [samostoyatelnost]. And what is more, it is being claimed that their adoption will result in the loss of the republic's sovereignty.

These misgivings are totally unfounded. The point is that the additions and amendments do not affect the problems of the powers of central and republic organs of power. Article 113 of the draft law, which is attracting special attention, is aimed at demarcating the sphere of competence between the USSR Congress of People's Deputies and the USSR Supreme Soviet and also between USSR legislative organs and the union government.

Clearly, if this aspect has not been grasped by all comrades, this is due to certain inaccuracies in wording. In the process of finalization the drafts will be clarified, which is quite natural. Otherwise there would have been no need to discuss them.

The harmonization of the relations between the USSR and the union republics is one of the major tasks which, as is known, will be tackled at subsequent stages of political transformations.

Preparation is now under way for a CPSU Central Committee plenum which will examine the question of improving interethnic relations in the USSR.

Specialists in this sphere and representatives of the public and the creative intelligentsia are being enlisted to prepare the CPSU Central Committee plenum. The utmost account will be taken of public opinion in union republics and autonomous formations and of suggestions by party organizations and labor collectives.

The specific questions intended to be discussed at the plenum were published by the central and local press 12 November. Specifically, within the framework of preparations for the CPSU Central Committee plenum, there will be an in-depth analysis of the possibility and economic expediency of transferring republics and regions to the principles of economic accountability.

There will be discussion of many specific questions concerning:

—each union republic's specific contribution to the all-union economy;

—development of direct ties between union republics;

—effective collaboration between territorial management organs and USSR ministries and departments and enterprises under union jurisdiction.

There are however, comrades, topical questions whose solution cannot be postponed. Let us face up to the truth: Interethnic relations in the republic have become noticeably exacerbated recently, there is a division of the population along national lines. The CPSU Central Committee and the editorial offices of central newspapers, television, and radio receive letters, telegrams, and telephone calls which cause us some disquiet.

These reports speak of the emergence of an atmosphere of national intolerance in Estonia. It is noted that emotions are stronger than common sense in discussions of problems concerning language, citizenship, and a number of other questions.

During my visit to the republic I have seen for myself that representatives of different nationalities work together in industrial enterprise shops and in the countryside, in other words at their work places, within their labor collectives. They find a common language by themselves, without any regulations.

But I do think that we would be making a major mistake if, behind this generally normal working atmosphere, we were unable or unwilling to perceive the negative trends.

For example, it is impossible not to notice the attempts by individuals to attribute all negative aspects of history and the republic's life at present to someone's evil design. Both sides give a national coloring to everything.

Yes, of course there are still quite a few questions linked with events in prewar and postwar years. A number of acute economic, demographic, and ecological problems await urgent solution. Many questions have accumulated in the sphere of culture, education, and language. The most important point here is how to approach their solution. I would even say, how to choose a correct starting point here.

In this context, I would like to emphasize the following:

First, there is need for mutual recognition of the interests of representatives of all nationalities living in Estonia.

Second, there is a need to seek ways which would in no way injure any section of the population.

We have much to correct because of the fact that deviations from the Leninist principles of nationalities policy were allowed to occur at a certain stage. But why create a breeding ground for new national conflicts? Is it sensible, when solving one question, to create another which is, as rule, even more difficult?

Third, nothing can be achieved along the path of confrontation, mutual insults, and the promotion of various ultimatum demands.

The tasks of restructuring can be resolved only on the basis of the consolidation, only on the basis of the unification, of the forces of representatives of all nationalities living in the republic.

It is very important that representatives of the Russian-speaking population should also understand the objective need to resolve urgent problems of the development of the Estonian people and the Estonian socialist nation.

Public opinion is greatly influenced by the mass media and the creative intelligentsia. Obviously we should be guided here by the principles accepted in our country: If there is pluralism of opinions then it is a socialist pluralism and is for everyone, not just for a particular side. If there is an item on a burning topic then it should be the kind of item which will bring closer people of different nationalities and not sow distrust between them.

The republic's intelligentsia can and must make a substantial contribution to the elaboration of constructive proposals for the ideological backup of the party's nationalities policy, to the intensification of international and patriotic education, and to the formation of a high standard of interethnic communication.

Here too I should like to recall the words M.S. Gorbachev spoke when he visited the republic in February last year to the effect that it is possible to strengthen and augment the Soviet peoples' friendship and further improve interethnic relations only on the sole correct foundation—the basis of internationalism.

Time demands thoughtful, considered approaches and a high degree of responsibility. The birth of the new is always complex. Sometimes it is hard to assimilate even for those who are sincerely seeking it. Some people display passiveness and wait and see, some people are excessively hasty and want to resolve all problems at a stroke, without considering the realities.

But we know that there are no miracles. We make life by our own hands, our own minds. The destiny of restructuring is also in our hands.

The role of the party and the role of Communists is particularly great at sharp turns in social development. Unfortunately, a number of party organizations, party committees, and even the republic Communist Party Central Committee have at a certain stage proved unable to cope with the situation, have let slip the initiative, and begun to lose authority.

The 11th Communist Party Central Committee plenum took a resolute step to radically alter the situation in the republican party organization. But in practice much still has to be done to overcome the isolation of some party organizations and the separation of party committees from production collectives and to really ensure every Communist's vanguard role.

Having plunged myself into the republic's atmosphere, albeit for a very brief period, I felt particularly keenly how important it is constantly to remember that the CPSU is primarily the party of the working class. The activity of our party and our state is based on the ideology of the working class. The party's division along national lines does not accord with its internationalist essence.

Communists are primarily responsible for creating an atmosphere which would promote the consolidation of the friendship and fraternity of the representatives of different nationalities living in the republic.

The country has entered a new stage of restructuring. It is characterized by the fact that we now have not only a concept but also a strategy for renewal made specific for the most important avenues of society's development. The task of the practical implementation of what has been planned is advanced to the fore. We must not waste any more time or effort on fruitless discussions, especially on the endless ascertainment of national grievances and the settling of accounts.

It is extremely important that all inhabitants of the republic should be profoundly aware of the dimension of what is happening and should determine their direct participation in this tremendous and creative work.

It will soon be 70 years since the day of the formation of the Estonian Labor Commune and V.I. Lenin's signing of the decree on the RSFSR Government's recognition of the independence of the young Estonian Soviet Republic. Those dates are evidence of the rich revolutionary traditions of the Estonian people and the commonality of their historical destiny with other peoples of the Soviet Union.

The problems which face the republic and the entire country today are also common ones. And they can be resolved most fruitfully only by joint efforts.

In conclusion, comrades, allow me to wish you good health, successes in labor, and happiness and prosperity in every home!

Shevardnadze Foreign Policy Statement Cited

LD2311162388 Moscow World Service in English 1510 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Recently, the Communist Party organization of the Soviet Foreign Ministry held a conference. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made a statement. His statement is to be published in the December issue of the FOREIGN MINISTRY BULLETIN [VESTNIK MINISTERSTVA INOSTRANNYKH DEL SSSR]. Considering that Radio Moscow listeners might be interested to know what the Soviet Foreign minister said, his ministry has made it possible for us to get acquainted with his statement before it is published by the bulletin.

In his statement, Eduard Shevardnadze focused on ways to restructure the work of Soviet diplomats and on the impact of a new political thinking on international relations as a whole. There is no doubt, he said that a new thinking in foreign policy had led to qualitatively new changes on the world scene. One of the positive changes is achievements in the work of genuine disarmament, said Eduard Shevardnadze. In fact, military, particularly nuclear, confrontation has been lowered, he stressed. One-half of Soviet troops was withdrawn from Afghanistan. The production of chemical weapons in the USSR was stopped. The people's money are no longer spent on this. [as heard] On the whole, our defense industries have the opportunity to fill civilian orders. All this would have been impossible were it not for the appropriate conditions on the world scene, were it not for the contribution made by Soviet diplomacy to the efforts to sign the treaty on intermediate- range nuclear forces and the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out.

But despite these great achievements, there are still considerable shortcomings in the work of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, the minister went on to say. In some areas, Soviet diplomats work with insufficient consistency. We are too slow in working out and concretizing our military doctrine, in making it strictly defensive. Our experts are vigorously dealing with this task. I hope, the minister said, that in the near future we will be able to show convincingly that our defense policy strictly conforms with this concept.

An effective foreign policy is an instrument of the most profitable economic policy, Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out. We justly link our hopes with a more active participation in international economic and financial organizations. There are the necessary conditions for that now because they have been prepared by our foreign policy. As long as we are part of the world community we will have to adjust our policies both to our own needs and to the world around us all the time, stressed Eduard Shevardnadze. We must be realistic politically. The Soviet foreign policy was conducted basing on artifical domestic climate for much too long, he said. [as heard] We now must be prepared to work on a new basis, in conditions of openness and democracy. For dozens of years, we took foreign policy decisions and the people reacted to them with enthusiastic approval, invariably. The people endorsed what doomed them to sacrfices, ruined the country, and created a caricature of the nation itself. From now on, this will not be allowed to happen. It's not possible any longer, emphasized Eduard Shevardnadze, to conduct a foreign policy that is not open, not explained to the people, and not supported by the people, the Soviet foreign minister said.

IZVESTIYA Publishes Feofanov Article on Law

PM2311171088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Yu. Feofanov article under the rubric "On a Topic of the Day": "On Freedom and the Laws"]

[Text] We are following the events in certain regions of the country with interest and concern.

With interest, because the entirely predictable explosion of spontaneous social activity was not planned from above, as in the old days, within the rigid framework of the prescribed "working people's initiative." The party, implementing a restructuring that is equivalent to a revolution, boldly discarded the old bans, while being clearly aware that many unforeseen and unpredictable things would happen. M.S. Gorbachev spoke of this unequivocally: "...We have evidently not yet fully realized ourselves what far-reaching consequences the processes of democratization have and will have...." Frank, you will agree. And the 19th party conference, which took place before the eyes of all the people, was full of surprises beyond all expectations. Including the unmasking of the criminal face of some of the elected delegates. And never mind, the "foundations" did not collapse.

Our concern in following the events in certain regions is not, perhaps, because we fear for the "foundations." I think we are worried about something else—the future of restructuring, the outcome of the economic reforms, renewal of the political system, and democratization of our life. The aim of the current transformations is not anarchy, but a rule-of-law state. And I doubt whether even the most radical of radicals, in his right mind, would reject this aim. But morally justified aims can only be achieved by morally justified means. "At any price," "by means of extraordinary measures"—we have seen all that before.

Long ago, in ancient times, they used to say: A slave rebels, while revolution is the lot of the free man. Frankly speaking, I have been thinking about this enigma for a long time. It somehow failed to hang together in my mind. You see, I read in the greatest of all revolutionaries, and no one is likely to doubt the revolutionary nature of Karl Marx: "The code of laws is the bible of the people's freedom." Obviously only dialectics, the algebra of life, and not an arithmetic that splits everything into "whites" and "reds," can pull all this together by establishing in any revolution the combination of spontaneous forces and the principle of reason. Was it perhaps Stalin's seminary arithmetic that ruined what the revolution had achieved? Because unlike the spontaneous forces of rebellion, which is blind and senseless, revolutions move according to their own laws. Does not violence against these laws amount to counterrevolution?

Do not judge hastily, reader: revolution is stretching a point as a "topic of the day," you may say. The 19th party conference attached paramount importance, among political transformations, to the question of power—a key issue for any revolution. It is quite possible that the draft laws, the discussion of which is nearing completion, are far from complete and in many respects not perfect; more radical, "more revolutionary" versions are not ruled out—the debate is fairly heated and open and sometimes goes beyond the bounds of the problems set for discussion—the electoral system and the contours of power. The main work lies ahead. But is it sensible to undermine what does not exist, what has still to be built? Especially since practical measures are already planned to further develop the Soviet federation and strengthen it on democratic principles.

Impatience is evidently an "innate characteristic" of Russia's ["rossiyskiye"] revolutionaries. By "Russia's" I do not mean only Russians [russkiye]. One can understand the keen awareness of the problems of the union republics' sovereignty on the part of, for instance, the Lithuanian movement "Sajudis" or the Estonian Popular Front. The USSR Constitution proclaims this sovereignty, but does not make provision for all the mechanisms to put it into practice. This is unfortunately a characteristic feature of many constitutional provisions. It is only in the last few years that certain legal acts have been adopted in the country to fill these gaps. The country's Fundamental Law will be improved, amended, and clarified in many areas. But all this should be done on a legal basis, not on an anarchic basis. To arrogate to the highest authorities of republics belonging to the Union the right to decide for themselves questions of, in effect, the ratification of union laws means establishing "one law for Kaluga and another for Kazan," no more and no less. On the second page of today's issue readers will study with interest, I think, the principles of the structure of a federal state, as well as the story of the unlawful actions of certain leaders of "Sajudis" and their supporters.

Incidentally, the sovereignty of the union republics is not so curtailed as people try to make out. For instance, the Union adopts only the fundamentals of civil, criminal, family, and labor legislation, and so forth. The codes on the basis of which disputes are actually judged and resolved are the prerogative of the republics. So they do not differ greatly? But that is not a matter of law, it is a matter of practice. No one is stopping the republics from taking local peculiarities into account in their codes. But on one condition, naturally: The norm of the code cannot be contrary to the norm of the fundamentals. Otherwise there can be no question of a rule-of-law state or guaranteed rights for citizens throughout the country's territory.

Let us be frank: Many initiatives from informal organizations, "movements," "fronts," and so forth have attracted us, and still do, because of their experience of democratic initiatives. And at the same time they alarm us, because of certain extremes. And especially if you take into account that the problems of power and autonomy are of concern to many people today.

The problems of federation are complex, but solving them in the wrong way is disastrous. We have done away with declarations about Soviet people's "monolithic unity" and loud speeches about a "new historical community." But can we renounce the unity of the people's goals and the ideas and achievements of the peoples' friendship? State sovereignty? The law, finally, as the regulator of social relations? Having only just begun to establish the laws in this capacity, we must not, absolutely must not go back to emotions in the process of state building. That is a sure path to self-will on the one hand or tyranny on the other. In essence it means renouncing the freedom that we have begun to move toward.

While laws exist, they should operate and be fulfilled by everyone without exception.

News Conference on 'Radical' Economic Reform

LD2311171488 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 23 TASS—By TASS correspondent Konstantin Voytsekhovich:

A radical reform of the Soviet economy is the topic of a news conference given in the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today by Stepan Sitaryan, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee. Heads and staffers of foreign diplomatic representations accredited in Moscow were present.

The implementation of economic reforms requires, above all, determining an effective correlation between central planning and market mechanisms in the Soviet economy, Stepan Sitaryan said. The experience accumulated in this area by socialist states, and also by Western countries and Japan is closely studied in the USSR.

Stepan Sitaryan holds that the next two years must be crucial to the development of Soviet economy. Much depends on how fast the transition of all industrial enterprises to new conditions of economic management will be concluded, he said. In this connection the representative of the USSR State Planning Committee said that wholesale trade is vigorously developed in the USSR. Its total volume in the current year makes up about 40 billion roubles, and it is to reach 115 billion roubles next year and to exceed 200 billion roubles by 1990. A reform of wholesale and purchase prices will be started that year.

Diplomats showed interest in the cooperative movement in the USSR and in its effects on the country's economy. Stepan Sitaryan said that broad use of lease contracts, of cooperative forms of property will make the economy more flexible. He said there are many examples when the setting up of cooperatives on the basis of loss-making state-owned enterprises has made them profitable through increasing labour productivity and ensuring a better organisation of work. There are over 40 thousand cooperatives in the country now. They employ more than 700 thousand people, he said.

Passenger, Freight Trains Collide in Kuybyshev

LD2511091188 Moscow TASS in English 0901 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 25 TASS—Dozens of passengers were injured as two trains collided in the Kuybyshev region, the Russian Federation, on November 24, the newspaper GUDOK reported today.

The accident occurred between Sarai-Gir and Abdulino as the Kharkov-Vladivostok express train, already behind schedule, was slowly travelling to yellow signals.

When it stopped at the red light, a goods train with empty cars rammed it from behind at the speed of 15-20 kilometres an hour due to faulty brakes.

A number of goods cars derailed in the collision. Dozens of express train passengers sustained injuries and bruises, eight of them were hospitalized.

Members of the goods train team were rushed to hospital in grave conditions.

Economic

Tambov Trade Body, Plants, Farms Bankrupt

PM2311162188 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Nov 88 First Edition p 1

[A. Russkiy report under the rubric "Banker Advises Lessees": "Direct Operations"]

[Excerpts] Tambov—A TASS correspondent reports to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA that the Tambov administration of the USSR Agro-Industrial Bank has declared the city fruit and vegetable trade system bankrupt. Last year alone purchasers failed to receive 1,200 tonnes of fruit and vegetables. Because of trade workers' negligence they rotted or were written off for animal feed.

"The main reason forcing the bank to refuse credit to the trade is its leaders' long-standing inactivity," V. Chernyshov, chief of the Agro-Industrial Bank administration, said. "They have made no effort to improve the system for storing and processing the vegetables. As a result the trade developed enormous debts."

Trade is not the only "planned loss-making" enterprise to which the bank has applied extreme measures in conditions of economic accountability. Two brick plants in the agro-industrial system in Michurinskiy and Tambovskiy Rayons have also 'gone under the hammer.' They have been switched to leasing.

To eliminate loss-making enterprises and help lagging farms the Agro-Industrial Bank is giving all-round backing to lease and family contract operators. [passage omitted]

Recently the Tambov bankers took part in an oblast lessees' conference. At the meeting 66 loss-making farms, where lease forms of labor are still completely lacking, were criticized. Whether they are declared bankrupt or are given assistance to boost the economy with lessees' help depends not least of all on the bankers. This is why these farms were the main places on V. Chernyshov and his colleagues' itineraries. The banks plan to raise the level of economic training there and to assist in creating lease collectives, of which there is still an unjustifiably small number operating in the sphere.

Foreign Economic Minister Katushev Interviewed

LD2511101288 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Report on interview with Konstantin Katushev, USSR minister of foreign economic relations, by unidentified reporter—date, place not given; recorded Katushev remarks introduced by announcer; Katushev speaks in Russian with superimposed English translation]

[Text] [Announcer] The current restructuring has brought changes in many areas of Soviet society. There have also been some shifts in the pattern of the country's foreign trade, which has long been plagued by high cost factors. Instead of making a decisive technological breakthrough at home, the Soviet Union imported large quantities of foreign equipment for capital-intensive areas such as mining, timber, and chemicals. Apart from huge hard currency spendings this tended to discourage domestic producers of machinery and equipment. To find out more about the problems facing the nation's foreign trade we turned to Konstantin Katushev, the minister for economic relations with other countries.

[Katushev] As a result, we lag behind in advanced technology, industrial organization, new materials, and quality of finished products. A range of engineering products once in demand on world markets can no longer compete. Our trade with the industrialized nations is in a critical state. The long-running policy of increasing oil and gas exports, which reached 70 percent of all our trade in the seventies, has distorted the pattern of trade, making it one-product oriented. The negative impact of such export structures is now felt with all its clarity. The crash of oil and gas prices in early 1986 cost us R26 billion in 1985 prices, and a decade-long monopoly of domestic producers of machinery and equipment led to lower quality and competitiveness on international markets.

[Announcer] Since 1972 the share of industrial exports has gone down from 23 to 15 percent. In the United States the share is around 46 percent, in West Germany 48, and Japan 70. Indeed that's a disappointing state of affairs. The Soviet Union launched the first earth satellite; it is the world's leader in space research; it was the first to develop lasers and to build a nuclear power station; and is one of the two major military powers, and yet today it finds itself reduced to the role of an exporter of fossil fuels and raw materials. This can be seen as nothing short of a sad paradox in a string of other distortions caused by the years of the Stalin cult and the stagnation of the Brezhnev era. What is going to be done? Konstantin Katushev.

[Katushev] In 1986 the 27th Congress of the Communist Party set a top priority of greater involvement in world economy. This was to be achieved by introducing the most advanced forms of economic cooperation. Government programs provide for trebling Soviet exports by the year 2005 over the 1985 level. The emphasis will be on industrial exports, since this is the main condition for dynamic foreign trade.

[Announcer] What is the basis of the reform in foreign trade?

[Katushev] Basically greater independence for home producers and deals with foreign partners.

[Announcer] How far has this gone to date?

[Katushev] Fifty-six ministries and more than 100 industrial associations and individual plants are now entitled to deal directly on world markets. Their share of the national exports last year was around 20 percent. More than 65 percent of our export of machinery and equipment is now done by the producers themselves and this trend will expand to involve more producers. The socialist countries account for 67 percent of the Soviet Union's trade. The German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, and Hungary are this country's leading trade partners.

[Announcer] We have taken another major step, the Soviet minister for foreign economic relations said, which is also the outcome of the reforms taking place in a number of socialist countries. An agreement was reached between the Soviet Union and six countries, members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, on making all payments in their national currencies made convertible within these countries. The specific agreements to the effect have already been signed with Poland, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia. But not everything goes smoothly; problems develop in our relations with socialist countries, Konstantin Katushev went on to say. For example, owing to sharp price fluctuations and changes in the market situation in the Soviet Union may become a debtor to some of those countries by the year 1990. This problem calls for an urgent solution already now.

When asked to comment on the Soviet Union's economic contacts with capitalist countries, Konstantin Katushev gave these details:

The Soviet Union's economy becomes today more and more open to cooperation with the West. Most Soviet participants in foreign economic activities have already embarked on winning new markets for themselves and also on mastering nontraditional forms of cooperation, including industiral cooperation and the establishment of joint business ventrues. Over 100 of them already have been set up jointly with capitalist and developing countries on the territory of the Soviet Union. Six out of them have been established jointly with the United States. At present more than 300 new projects proposed by companies of various countries are under consideration, said Konstantin Katushev.

The Soviet press has lately been commenting extensively on the appearance of joint business ventures in this country. Significantly very few of them represent most modern productions; when asked to comment on this the Soviet minister said the following.

[Katushev] I believe that the business ventures set up by now really represent very insignificantly the industries so indispensable for the development of the Soviet economy—among others, electronics, instrument making, and robotics. And this is evident from Western business desire to increase exports to this country. Our desire, however, it to develop our own exports, especially in terms of engineering goods. But Western businessmen do not always take this desire into account. In the future, while analyzing the proposals of foreign firms concerning the establishment of joint business ventures, we'll be trying to look for optimal solutions that will combine in the best possible way both the interests of the Western partners and our own interests.

[Announcer] The minister was then asked what capitalist country is the Soviet Union's most active partner, and what difficulties does the Soviet Union come up against in the capitalist market? Konstantin Katushev.

[Katushev] In this group of countries West Germany is the Soviet Union's leading partner. Last year's trade with it amounted to R5,000 million. Until recently Japan was also a sound partner, yet over the past year trade with it has reduced by R500 million and not at the Soviet Union's fault. For similar reasons, bearing more relation to politics than to trade, economic contacts with the United States are also scarce. The Americans stubbornly refuse to grant the Soviet Union the status of a most favored nation, and block all its attempts to establish relations with various international economic organizations.

[Announcer] Incidentally, the Soviet Union's current rapprochement with international economic organizations is also a sign of changes taking place in the Soviet Union's foreign economic policy. Up until recently it tried to ignore these organizations and belittle their role in the world economic cooperation, our reporter said. Here is the opinion of Konstantin Katushev.

[Katushev] To have a greater share in world eocnomic cooperation, we should be more active in achieving a rapprochement with such international economic organizations as the European Economic Community, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, and many others. We have already done something along these lines. In June the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance had signed a declaration on the establishment of official relations with the European Economic Community. Work is underway for the signing of a similar agreement between the Soviet Union and the European Economic Community. Our forthcoming actions include the entry into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Up to now, the Soviet Union hasn't been a member of that organization, and in the meantime GATT has become an organization that's been setting standards in the field of foreign trade. Now the Soviet Union is seeking a membership in GATT and is prepared to work actively within that organization.

[Announcer] And to end this interview with the Soviet minister for foreign economic relations, our reporter asked Konstantin Katushev to sum up the Soviet Union's approach to the work of restructuring in foreign economic relations.

[Katushev] Two years is a very short period to expect any impressive results. The reform has not yet been completed. As I've tried to show, so far its general directions have been outlined. The reform will continue to develop; this process will go in parallel with the reform of the country's entire economic system, being its component. There is no alternative to the Soviet economy's restructuring, nor there is any to the restructuring of foreign economic relations—otherwise the country will have to return to the period of lagging behind and stagnation. This country has only one way it can go—to step up the policy of restructuring.

Agricultural

Soviet Leaders Attend Agricultural Workers' Day

PM2311151788 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Agro-Industrial Complex Workers' Holiday"]

[Text] A festive meeting dedicated to Agricultural and Processing Industry Workers' Day took place 18 November in Moscow.

The following were in the presidium: Comrades Ye.K. Ligachev, V.P. Nikonov, and O.D. Baklanov; USSR and RSFSR ministers; state committee chairmen; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers, ministries and departments; socialist competition winners and production innovators; and scientists.

Giving the report, V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, noted that it is essential to further improve the economic mechanism in the agro-industrial complex and to create such economic conditions as will make it possible to overcome working people's alienation from the means of production. It is essential to ensure a close unity between the new economic relations and the universal mastery of progressive technologies for the production of agricultural and livestock output. Further progress will require profound qualitative changes in production relations and the accelerated development of scientific and technical progress.

Ahead lies the development and application of economic and organizational methods for the extensive use of scientific and technological achievements and advanced experience in production.

Food Supply Problems Remain Unresolved

PM2411154788 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Nov 88 p 1

[Nikolay Osychkin article under the rubric "Topics of the Day": "An Urgent Problem Which Brooks No Delay"]

[Text] The country needs a resolute improvement in food supplies. This is an urgent problem which brooks no delay. This was stated at the Orel conference, which has ended after a discussion of topical questions of the current stage of restructuring in the agro-industrial complex, and on party political measures to ensure the fulfillment of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference on food matters.

In the course of preparations for the CPSU Central Committee February (1989) Plenum the party is trying to work out, and implement in practice, scientifically substantiated plans for the development of the agro-industrial complex. After all, whole decades have been squandered during the period of voluntarism and stagnation on fruitless talk about the "upsurge of agriculture," while no cardinal measures to radically resolve the problem were adopted. This led to the gradual worsening of difficulties in the food supply situation, whose elimination demands selfless efforts from all workers in the countryside.

Now, as the current agricultural season draws to a close, and as we approach the 4th and especially crucial year of the 5-year plan, it would appear useful to take a look at what has been done in the course of restructuring to improve food supplies to the population. The agro-industrial complex plays a key role in this sphere. After all, its output accounts for some three-fourths of the country's consumption fund. Economic methods of administration, new forms of management in the countryside, and contract and leasing relations are boosting peasants' activeness and contributing to labor productivity growth and bigger harvests. Making full use of the agro-industrial complex' economic potential and ensuring high and stable yields from the fields and high livestock productivity at the livestock units—this is the urgent task which must be tackled today, tomorrow, and every day.

In addition to Orel Oblast, the performance of many other agro-industrial complex collectives deserves a mention. In many places farms have managed to grow a good grain harvest under this year's complex conditions, achieving yields of 43.6 quintals per hectare in Transcarpathia, 42.5 quintals in Kzyl-Orda Oblast, 39 quintals in the Kuban, 35 quintals in Moldavia, 35.4 in Cherkassy Oblast, 35 quintals in Chernovtsy Oblast, 34.8 quintals in Nikolayev Oblast, 33.3 quintals in the Crimean Oblast, and 30.2 quintals in the Kabardo-Balkar ASSR. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Belorussia, Georgia, Stavropol Kray, Voronezh, Belgorod, and Odessa Oblasts, and in a number of other republics, krays, and oblasts, have considerably exceeded the state targets for grain sales. Uzbek, Turkmen, and Tajik cotton growers have gratified us with the good harvest they have gathered.

All these are positive signs of restructuring which testify to the tremendous potential inherent in agriculture, a potential which must be brought into play to resolve the food question. So far, the efforts displayed in this sphere are totally inadequate. In the final analysis, no matter how painful it is to admit, the gross grain harvest this year was below last year's harvest, and below the planned target. Grain procurement, too, was correspondingly lower. At the same time 4 million more tonnes of strong, durum, and valuable wheat was purchased than last year, which ought to have a positive impact on supplies of top-quality bread.

The harvest was noticeably lower than last year in Estonia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Bryansk and Moscow Oblasts, and the Mordovian ASSR. Novgorod, Kostroma, and Chelyabinsk farmers are in an extremely embarrassing position, having achieved yields of barely 10 quintals per hectare. Kuybyshev and Saratov farms are in a similar position. Volgograd kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which threshed 19.2 quintals per hectare, are no example worth following either. Siberian farmers worked hard in the fields but their results, too, could be better. And in the country as a whole, how many times is it possible to set the task of achieving average yields of 20 quintals of grain per hectare and then to fail to fulfill it? The constantly diminishing area assigned to the sowing and harvesting of grain crops is also causing concern. This applies to this year, too, when it was planned to thresh grain crops (excluding corn) from an area of 109 million hectares, while in actual fact this work was carried out only on an area of 104 hectares. Incidentally, as recently as 1980 grain crops were still sown on 123.6 million hectares.

Some agroprom, kolkhoz, sovkhoz, and party committee leaders are trying to explain the shortfall in agricultural production with reference to objective reasons, and especially to adverse weather conditions. It is true that this year in a number of regions there was drought, heavy rain, and then bright fall days. But under these conditions, the same in many areas, there have been various results. In Kherson Oblast, 63 quintals of grain per hectare were collected in the the contract collective of Aleksey Svin. In the Dolinskiy sovkhoz, where he works: 42 quintals per hectare; and in the neighboring sovkhoz Chaplinskiy, and the region by the same name: 28 quintals per hectare. The reason for these contrasts is found in the different attitudes of people to their work. Some, as it were, work the earth hard, get down to business, and closely monitor technology and agricultural equipment; others work off track, not worrying about the final outcome—the harvest. And here is one more example. The family team of Vladimir Pozdnyakov, for the Kursk kolkhoz named for Lenin, grew 450 quintals of sugar beets per hectare, and overall in the oblast the figure was almost half that. This is a graphic affirmation of the superiority of the contract method of labor organization.

The leasing system is inspiring hope. The sovkhoz named for Krupskaya in Ulyanovsk Oblast has switched all its subdivisions to this system. And here is the first result. From each of the sovkhoz's 8,000 hectares 39 quintals of rice have been threshed, while N. Sudakov's leading team threshed 44 quintals per hectare. The yields of other crops are also high. For the sake of comparison I would like to note that average yields in the oblast totaled 17.1 quintals. This means that it is necessary to implement the restructuring of economic relations in the countryside more boldly, and create conditions for people's enhanced interest in the results of their labor!

The grain problem is the main but not the only problem besetting the food question. The agro-industrial complex must produce more agricultural products of all types, improve their quality, and seek to satisfy the population's requirements more fully. This year a certain improvement has been achieved as regards oil-bearing crops. Threshings of sunflower and rape seeds have increased. The task now is to store them safely, process them on time, and ensure sufficient supplies of vegetable oil in the stores. However, there are all kind of obstacles to the achievement of this goal. Many grain-reception and oil-processing enterprises have proved unprepared to receive the raw materials. The question of prices for rape oil produced directly on farms has still not been resolved. A part of these food products is being used for industrial purposes.

Our mail includes many letters complaining about empty shelves in vegetable stores in a number of cities and settlements, high prices charged at markets and in the cooperative trade network, and spoilage of products during transportation and storage at bases. This is impermissible. After all, fewer potatoes and vegetables than last year have been grown, and therefore special importance attaches to responsibility for their safekeeping. The gross harvest of sugar beets indicates that it should be possible to considerably improve sugar supplies to the population. However, in order to ensure this, it is necessary to considerably improve the work of sugar refineries and to considerably reduce the time needed to process the raw materials. It is necessary to pay special attention everywhere to questions of the reconstruction of processing enterprises and the development of the storage base and transport facilities, to ensure that material investments in the processing sectors produce swift and tangible returns.

Analyzing the results of the past agricultural season, it is necessary to adopt urgent measures on all kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and at agro-industrial associations, in order to create a firm foundation for next year's harvest. Some of the work in this sphere has already been done. Winter crops have been sown on 40 million hectares, which is more than was planned. Leading agricultural collectives are monitoring every hectare of sowings and creating favorable wintering conditions. Snow retention, timely work to prevent the formation of an ice crust, top-dressing of plants, and strict observance of all intensive technique stipulations—these are the main factors which determine the yields from winter crop fields. Fallow plowing has been carried out on virtually the whole area, which is of considerable importance in increasing spring crop yields. Everywhere work is under way to improve the quality of seed stocks. So far one-fourth of the checked stocks has failed to meet condition stipulations, and there are very few Class I seeds. The preparation of tractors, soil-cultivation machines, and seeders for the spring must be speeded up. Our humus-deficient arable land needs a solid dose of organic fertilizer. Unfortunately, the preparation and introduction into the soil of organic fertilizer has of late ground to a halt. Wherever this factor is neglected, people are deliberately condemning the soil to low fertility and damaging their chances of a good harvest.

Understandably, there can be no primary and secondary tasks in the solution of the food problem. They are all essential, and demand a responsible attitude from anyone who has anything to do with the soil and with crop and livestock production. What we need now, more than ever before, is strict discipline based on conscientiousness and a high sense of duty on the part of every agro-industrial complex worker, for the creation of full food sufficiency in the country.

Jan-Oct Livestock Figures Reported

PM2311163988 Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 47, Nov 88 (Signed to Press 17 Nov 88) p 4

[Unattributed "USSR State Committee for Statistics Report": "Stockraising on Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes"]

[Text]

I. Production of Livestock Products

The country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes had the following results for the production of livestock products in January-October this year:

Indicators	Jan-Oct 1988	Jan-Oct 1988 as Percentage of Jan-Oct 1987
Meat production (sale of livestock and poultry for slaughter, live weight), thousand tonnes	17,901	104
Gross milk yield thousand tonnes	74,473	104
Average milk yield per cow, kg	2,463	105
Hen eggs, millions	51,744	104
Average egg yield of laying hens, units	195	103

Meat production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes increased by 656,000 tonnes in comparison with the same period last year. Meat production increased on farms in most union republics, except Tajikistan and Armenia. The greatest increase in meat production in the RSFSR was achieved by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Pskov, Rostov, Amur, and Magadan Oblasts and the Karelian, Mary, Kalmyk, Kabardino-Balkar, Chechen-Ingush, and Buryat ASSR's. Meat production declined on farms in Vologda, Astrakhan, and Orenburg Oblasts, Krasnodar and Maritime Krays, and the Tuva and Yakut ASSR's.

The gross milk yield in January-October 1988 was 2.8 million tonnes more than in January-October last year. An increase in milk production was secured by stock unit workers in all union republics. The greatest increase in milk production in the RSFSR was achieved by farms in Murmansk, Bryansk, Ivanovo, Orel, Ryazan, Tambov, Penza, Rostov, Tomsk, and Irkutsk Oblasts and the Kalmyk ASSR. Milk production declined on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Kirov, Kuybyshev, and Chelyabinsk Oblasts and the North Osetian, Komi, Udmurt, and Tuva ASSR's.

Egg production on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the January-October 1988 increased by 1.8 billion compared with the same period last year. An increase in egg production was achieved on farms in almost all union republics, except Armenia.

II. Purchases of Livestock Products on All Categories of Farms

Types of Product	Purchased During Jan-Oct 1988	Jan-Oct 1988 as Percentage of Jan-Oct 1987
Livestock and poultry (live weight), thousand tonnes	18,830	104
Milk, thousand tonnes	68,096	104
Eggs, billions	48.2	103

The volume of livestock and poultry sales to the state in the country in the first 10 months of 1988 increased by 684,000 tonnes in comparison with the same period last year. Livestock and poultry sales declined on farms in Georgia, Armenia, and Tajikistan.

Livestock and poultry purchases in the RSFSR declined on farms in the Yakut ASSR, Astrakhan Oblast, Tuva ASSR, Stavropol Kray, Orenburg Oblast, and Krasnodar and Maritime Krays.

Purchases of milk and dairy products increased by 2,611,000 tonnes during the first 10 months of 1988. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes in all union republics except Estonia and Tajikistan increased milk sales to the state. Milk purchases increased considerably on farms in Murmansk Penza, Ivanovo, and Ryazan Oblasts, the Kalmyk ASSR, and in Kurgan, Irkutsk, and a number of other oblasts. Milk sales declined on kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Arkhangelsk, Kuybyshev, and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, the Karelian, Komi, and Udmurt ASSR's, and in Kirov Oblast and some other oblasts.

Egg sales to the state in January-October 1988 increased by 1.3 billion in comparison with the same period last year. Egg sales to the state increased on farms in all union republics except Armenia and the Ukraine.

III. Production and Purchases of Livestock Products by Union Republic

	Jan-Oct 1988 as Percentage of Jan-Oct 1987					
	Production			Purchases		
	Meat	Milk	Eggs	Livestock and Poultry	Milk	Eggs
USSR	104	104	104	104	104	103
RSFSR	104	104	105	104	104	103
of which the Non-Chernozem Zone	104	104	105	105	103	104
Ukrainian SSR	103	105	100.6	103	105	99.8
Belorussian SSR	105	105	103	105	106	102
Uzbek SSR	109	105	111	102	104	109
Kazakh SSR	106	104	100.5	105	104	101
Georgian SSR	129	100.6	100.4	97	102	100.5
Azerbaijan SSR	101	100.3	106	102	102	103
Lithuanian SSR	100.3	103	108	100.7	102	107
Moldavian SSR	102	107	105	105	107	103
Latvian SSR	100.6	101	101	101	100.5	100.5
Kirghiz SSR	100.3	102	108	104	103	107
Tajik SSR	98	100.8	112	99.1	99.7	117.3
Armenian SSR	99.9	100.4	97	98	102	96
Turkmen SSR	102	106	102	102	103	103
Estonian SSR	102	100.6	104	101	99	102.3

IV. Livestock Numbers

As at 1 November 1988, there were 94 million head of cattle on kolkhozes and sovkhozes—1.3 million fewer that at the same date last year. There were 28.5 million cows, being 285,000 fewer. The pig population reached 60.2 million, or an increase of 44,000. Sheep and goats on farms numbered 117.2 million (a decrease of 0.3 million). The number of poultry increased by 15.6 million to reach 799.4 million.

Statistics Committee Reports on Winter Feed

PM2411132788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Nov 88 Morning Edition p 1

[I. Abakumov "Agricultural Review": "Winter and the Livestock Units: Who Will Win?"]

[Excerpt] The USSR State Committee for Statistics has reported that by 16 November 19.6 million tonnes of livestock and poultry (liveweight) had been purchased, which is 730,500 tonnes more than last year. Some 70.3 million tonnes of milk had been purchased, which is 2,232,500 tonnes or 4 percent more.

I hope that this winter will be the last one for the economic and political bankrupts. There is nowhere for them to expect help from—according to the USSR State Committee for Statistics' figures, feed stocks are 96 percent of last year's total. The average figure across the country is 17.2 quintals of feed units per standard head of livestock—the "subsistence minimum" would seem assured. But that is an average figure. Eleven republics are below that level and six of them have fewer than 16 quintals of feed units per head. Matters are aggravated further by the fact that they cannot count especially on concentrates supplied from state resources—the grain harvest is lower than expected.

As a rule the farms at risk are those in regions where the transition to economic methods of work has still not begun. Other explanations of the situation, particularly the references to the summer's weather, are as inappropriate as comparisons of our achievements with 1913. Incidentally, not one of the leasing collectives and agricultural cooperatives that I know about has been left without feed—whether in Siberia, Kazakhstan, or the center of the Non-Chernozem Zone—even though everywhere suffered from drought. [passage omitted]

Mid-November Weather, Crop Status Report

PM2411135588 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Nov 88 p 1

[Agrometeorologist N. Korenkova report: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] The weather continues to be colder than usual over the European territory of the USSR. Air temperatures over the 10 days were 3-6 degrees below average in most regions, and 1-2 degrees below average in the Baltic republics, the northwest region, most of the central and northern regions, the Volga-Vyatka and Urals regions, and the south of the Volga region.

Winter grain and perennial grasses were under snow cover with the exception of Moldavia, the southern and northwestern oblasts of the Ukraine, most of the North Caucasus, and western Belorussia and Lithuania. The snow cover was between 2 and 25 centimeters deep. In the northern region and the east of the northwestern region, where the snow cover was more than 20 cm, minimum soil temperature at tillering node depth was around zero. Over the rest of the European part of the country it was from minus 2 to minus 6 degrees, and minus 10 to minus 13 degrees in places in the Middle Volga and the southern Urals. The wintering of winter grain crops and perennial grasses is proceeding favorably. In Moldavia, the southern oblasts of the Ukraine, the North Caucasus, and western Belorussia and Lithuania, where there was no snow cover on fields, minimum soil temperature at winter crop tillering node depth was from minus 2 to minus 7 degrees.

It was warmer than usual in the crop-farming regions of Siberia. In the north of Tyumen and Omsk oblasts and over most of Novosibirsk, Tomsk, and Kemerovo oblasts winter crops and perennial grasses were under snow cover mostly 10-15 cm deep. The condition of winter grain crops and perennial grasses was favorable in these areas.

The weather continued to be warmer than usual in the Central Asian republics. It grew colder in the middle of the 10-day period and there was precipitation accompanied by strong winds in places. Winter crops are vegetating in these areas.

It is cold in the republics of the Transcaucasus. Precipitation fell in the form of rain and sleet. Mechanical damage to citrus fruit was recorded in the southern part of the Western Georgia subtropical zone as a result of snow falls.

Scientific

Cosmos-1980 Satellite Launched 23 Nov

LD2411071788 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—On November 23, 1988 the Soviet Union launched another satellite, Cosmos-1980.

The satellite carries research instrumentation to continue space explorations.

The satellite is put into orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution—101.9 minutes, apogee—880 km, perigee—852, orbital inclination—71 degrees.

Apart from scientific instrumentation, the satellite has a radio system for precise measuring of orbital elements, a radio-telemetry system to transmit data to the earth on the operation of instruments and scientific equipment.

Equipment installed on the satellite operates smoothly.

Cosmos-1981 Satellite Launched 24 Nov

LD2511093788 Moscow TASS in English 0928 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 25 TASS—The Soviet Union launched an Earth satellite of the Cosmos series on Thursday usisng a Soyuz booster rocket.

The Satellite, Cosmos-1981, is carrying research equipment intended for the exploration of outer space.

The satellite has been placed in the orbit with the following parameters:

—Initial period of revolution—90.4 minutes,

—Maximum distance from the Earth's surface—374 kilometres,

—Minimum distance—245 kilometres,

—Inclination of the orbit—62.8 degrees.

The satellite is fitted out with systems for the precise measurement of orbit elements and transmission of data on the operation of instruments and research equipment to ground control.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

'Progress-38' Unmanned Spacecraft Delivers Cargo

LD2411094688 Moscow TASS in English 0930 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

A space flight of the unmanned spacecraft Progress-38 has come to a close. It brought to the Mir orbital station about two tons of various cargoes. At 15:13, Moscow time, of November 23 the cargo spacecraft detached itself from the orbital complex. Then it was put on a descend trajectory, entered the compact layers of the Earth's atmosphere and ceased to exist.

Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov are completing the 340th day of the space flight. Valeriy Polyakov has been on a near-Earth orbit for 88 days.

Today's working program, of the crew of the Mir research complex includes astrophysical and geophysical experiments, the maintenance of equipment and instruments. It is planned to conduct four series of the study of a Roentgen pulsar in the Vela constellation, using the international observatory "Roentgen".

During communication sessions the crew report that the flight is going on normally. The cosmonauts are in good health and feel well.

'Mir' Cosmonauts To Carry Out Experiments

LD2511091488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The crew of the 'Mir' scientific research complex is to carry out another eight sessions of astrophysical studies using the Roentgen orbital observatory. The day's program also includes experiments in the further study of the interaction between charged particles of comsic origin and the Earth's magnetosphere. According to the medical check schedule, the commander and flight engineer will undergo an examination using the

(?Chibiz) pneumovacuum suit. According to the reports of the crew, the flight is going normally. Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov, and Valeriy Polyakov are feeling fine.

Academician Marchuk Opens Geneticists' Forum

PM2411135188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Nov 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Genetics Revival"]

[Text] The preparation of the Comprehensive Program for the Development of Research Into Fundamental and Applied Problems of Genetics Through the Year 2000 has begun in the country under the auspices of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The all-union conference of geneticists that opened 22 November in Moscow at the USSR Academy of Sciences Bio-organic Chemistry Institute was the first working forum on the way to elaborating this project.

Opening the meeting, Academician G.I. Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, stressed that reviving Soviet genetics following the casualties inflicted by Lysenkoism requires the total consolidation of efforts in all branches of biological science.

At present, the president said, a new generation of both general and molecular geneticists has grown up in the Academy of Sciences and in the country as a whole. The present conference's task is to discuss how to make more effective use of this potential in order to rapidly boost biological science and ensure the irreversibility of restructuring in genetics.

Television Reception Extended in Turkmenia

PM2311145788 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "For the Soviet Person"]

[Text] Nebit-Dag—Oilmen and shepherds have been enabled to watch Central Television programs in the remote desert. Specialists of the oblast radio and television center have installed a powerful transmitter. It is planned to construct powerful television stations in the republic at Gasan-Kuli and Gaurdak and in Bakhardenskiy Rayon by the end of 1990.

Military

Leaders Speak at Military Trade Anniversary

PM2311135588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Nov 88 First Edition p 1

[Unnamed own correspondent report: "Ceremonial Meeting"]

[Text] A ceremonial meeting devoted to the 70th anniversary of military trade has been held at the Soviet Army Central Academy Theater. A report was delivered at it by Lieutenant General N. Sadovnikov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Main Directorate for Trade.

Those present were addressed by K. Terekh, USSR minister of trade; Army General V. Arkhipov, USSR deputy defense minister and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Rear Services; and G. Zamytskaya, secretary of the State Trade System and Consumer Cooperative Workers Union Central Committee.

The meeting was also attended by V. Gusev, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; Colonel General N. Chekov, USSR deputy defense minister for construction and billeting of troops; Lieutenant General G. Stefanovskiy, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; P. Kurenkov, RSFSR minister of trade, and others.

Obituary of Lt Gen Taskayev Published

PM2411145188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Nov 88 First Edition p 3

[Obituary of Lieutenant General A.V. Taskayev]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Anatoliy Vladimirovich Taskayev has died after a long illness. He devoted his entire life to the selfless service of the motherland and the Communist Party, of which he had been a member since 1944.

A.V. Taskayev was born into a peasant family in Volodarskoye village in Ayrtausskiy Rayon, Kokchetav Oblast in 1925. [passage omitted]

He had been deputy chief for political affairs of a USSR Defense Ministry main directorate since 1981. [passage omitted]

D.T. Yazov, S.F. Akhromeyev, V.G. Kulikov, P.G. Lushev, A.D. Lizichev, Yu.P. Maksimov, Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, I.M. Tretyak, A.N. Yefimov, V.N. Chernavin, M.I. Sorokin, V.M. Arkhipov, V.M. Shabanov, N.V. Chekov, V.L. Govorov, D.S. Sukhorukov, A.I. Sorokin, V.S. Nechayev, A.V. Betekhtin, M.D. Popkov, D.A. Grinkevich, M.Ye. Penkin, P.N. Kuleshov, V.G. Kostev, A.N. Zakharov, S.T. Dashkov, V.F. Gromakov, M.I. Goglev, I.I. Seleznev.